



THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT
THAT GAME, THAT GOAL...
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How a Victorian lady found happiness with her sheikh
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Proposals match Prince's vision

Future of the monarchy is scrutinised

By ALAN HAMILTON AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair have been involved in detailed private talks with the Queen and Prince of Wales over radical proposals to reform the monarchy, it emerged last night.

The leaked proposals bear all the hallmarks of the Prince of Wales's vision of the throne he would like to inherit. They include financing the monarchy entirely from Crown Estate revenues, disestablishing the Church of England, repealing the 295-year-old ban against heirs to the throne marrying Roman Catholics, and allowing the first-born child of a monarch to succeed to the throne irrespective of sex.

Buckingham Palace acknowledged yesterday that an informal group of royal family members and their most senior advisers met twice a year to discuss major strategic issues affecting the future of the Crown.

But Palace sources, while admitting that revolutionary proposals were often aired in private, denied that they formed part of a concerted plan by the Queen to redesign the monarchy in order that it might survive into the 21st century.

The Palace added that no immediate changes to the monarchy were in prospect, and said it was natural and inevitable that the Queen and her closest circle should look to the future, which they had been doing regularly for some time.

No action on the proposals is expected until at least after the next general election, and possibly even a long time after that. All the main points of debate have been the subject of discussion for years, and most have been aired publicly in the past by the Prince of Wales, most notably in the biography



"We got rid of all the hangers-on. What happens now?"

by Jonathan Dimbleby, in which the Prince cooperated closely.

The Prince has gone on record as saying that he would prefer to be "Defender of Faiths" to acknowledge the multi-cultural mix of modern Britain. It is some years since he first floated the idea of returning the Royal Family's funding to the Crown Estate as a means of achieving complete financial independence from government.

"Tony Blair has been kept informed on Privy Council terms. But underlying the discussions with both the Queen and the Prince of Wales is the feeling that it might be his government which presides over any changes," said one senior Whitehall official last night.

But Labour MPs immediately served notice that some of the plans would not go through without a fight. Any move to scrap the Civil List, currently costing £8.9 million a year, and return to the Royal Family the revenues of the Crown Estate — which last year yielded the Treasury over £94 million — would be strongly opposed by MPs on both sides of the House.

John Major, widely credited with helping to persuade the

Queen to pay income tax, has given enthusiastic backing to the Royal discussions. But the existence of the planning group came as a surprise to many junior members of the Royal Family yesterday. "The first they knew about it was when they read it in the papers," one former courier said.

Vernon Bogdanor, professor of government at Oxford University, who is a confidante of the Prince of Wales, has emerged as one of the key influences on the Prince's view of the kind of monarchy he would like.

Many of the proposals for change were contained in his book, *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, published last year. Professor Bogdanor talked at length to the Prince while writing the book, which is regarded as a key text on the future of the monarchy.

Downing Street's heavy involvement in the discussions is illustrated by the fact that two of Mr Major's most senior advisers attended a private lunch at the palace last July. "The powers encompassed in the Royal Prerogative were on the menu," said one guest.

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet secretary, and Alex Allan, the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, were at the lunch. Only a few weeks earlier, Labour had published proposals to strip the Crown of most of its few remaining vestigial powers. Also at the gathering were Professor Bogdanor and Lord Blake, the constitutional historian, along with senior members of the Royal household.

Sir Robin and Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, met regularly to discuss political issues affecting the monarchy and report back to the Queen and Prime Minister.

Popular support, page 2
Leading article, page 15



Tom Loughlin, four, and his sister, Jodie, six. They changed quickly on reaching the beach and were last seen running towards the waves



Hopes fade for missing beach children

By STEPHEN FARRELL AND LYN JENKINS

TWO children were missing and feared to have drowned last night after a 24-hour search by police, coastguards and volunteers failed to find a trace of them on a holiday beach in Norfolk.

Jodi Loughlin, six, and her brother Tom, four, from Norwood in south London, disappeared within minutes of arriving at the shore in Holme next the Sea, three miles from Hunstanton, on Sunday. The excited youngsters undressed quicker than their parents, ran towards the incoming water and disappeared into a crowd of sunbathers at 5.30pm. Neither could swim.

Their father Kevin and mother Lynette, both 37, searched for two hours as the tide came in rapidly on a dangerous coastline dotted with troughs and sandbanks. They alerted police who hunted into the night using an RAF Sea King helicopter from RAF Wartonham equipped with searchlights and thermal



Police search the shore

imaging cameras, a police helicopter and coastguard and lifeboat vessels. As darkness fell 100 people from the area and tourists responded to coastguard loud-hailer appeals and formed three torchlight search lines along the beach, dunes and thick gorse inland. The hunt continued until 1am and re-

sumed at first light, 4.45am. As helicopters scanned a wide area, 40 police, 34 firemen and coastguards and Customs and Excise officers in four-wheel drive vehicles scoured a four-mile stretch of beach from Old Hunstanton east to Thornham Harbour.

Meanwhile, civilian volunteer canoeists paddled up dykes and police searched 150 beach huts, breaking open some of them. Volunteer mountain rescue teams from the Peak District and Scarborough brought four border collies trained to find people in difficult terrain.

Coastguards said the task's size was doubled by the location of the beach at the corner of the Wash. Currents move south towards King's Lynn and east along the north Norfolk coast. The children disappeared on one of the worst days of the year, a day off a spring tide when the high and low water marks are at maximum and the sea comes in more rapidly.

"Hope is fading. The only chance now is if they are some-

where inland," said David Thiel, coastguard sector officer. "The particular hazard here is that the tide comes in relatively quickly and people can be cut off with water coming in behind them. You may be standing in a foot of water but just a few yards away it is 2ft to 3ft deep, and that, for a child, is a lot."

The man leading the hunt, Superintendent John Hale, of Norfolk Constabulary, refused to give up hope but admitted low-level aircraft had flown over all areas where the children could be and each building and plot of ground had been examined at least twice.

Mr Loughlin, a computer consultant and his partner, a physiotherapist, had visited Norfolk previously, but had

driven up from London only the day before.

Mr Hale said they should not blame themselves. "They were together and the children went very, very quickly on arriving here straight down to the edge of the sea."

He said there was no evidence Jodi and Tom — pupils at Rockmount Junior and Infants School — were abducted, and nothing to suggest anything other than that they "simply walked away or, sadly perhaps, have been washed away".

□ **Boy drowned:** Scott Dickerson, eight, of Langley Mill, Derbyshire, was found drowned on Trusthorpe beach, near Mablethorpe, in Lincolnshire, on Sunday. He had been staying with relatives at nearby Sutton on Sea.

Moral Maze rabbi dies

Rabbi Hugo Gryn, the well-known broadcaster and President of the Reform Synagogue of Great Britain, died from cancer late on Sunday. He was 66. Rabbi Gryn, who was born in Czechoslovakia and who survived Auschwitz, became best known to the public for his radio broadcasts, including *Thought for the Day*, and for his *Moral Maze* series two weeks ago when he was already desperately ill, leaving his hospital bed to do so. **Obituary, page 17**

Fred West police help Belgian hunt

By ROGER BOYES IN CHARLEROI AND RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

BELGIAN police hunting for more possible victims of a paedophile ring yesterday sought advice from officers in Gloucestershire who carried out the exhaustive search for bodies at the home of Fred and Rosemary West.

Superintendent John Bennett, who led the murder inquiry at Cromwell Street, Gloucester, spoke to Belgian police yesterday afternoon. "They wanted to draw upon our experiences, in particular our search techniques," said a police spokesman. In the search at Cromwell Street

officers used a radar device, that looked like a primitive lawn mower, to detect buried bodies.

The Belgians have also been in touch with Bramshill Police College which acts as an international information centre for inquiries needing special expertise.

In Belgium, Michelle Martin, the wife of a child rapist at the heart of the paedophilia scandal, was charged yesterday with being an accomplice in the crimes of Marc Dutroux. Ms Martin, 36, a tall former teacher was flown to a

remote court room in southern Belgium to avoid the furious crowds waiting for her in Neuchâteau. She denies any involvement in the crimes of Mr Dutroux, who has confessed to killing an accomplice and has been charged with kidnapping minors.

The bodies of two eight-year-old girls, as well as the murdered accomplice, were dug up from the garden of the house, she shared with Mr Dutroux in Sars-la-Buissière, near Charleroi. Police are searching the country for other bodies.

Another paedophilia case under investigation in Belgium involves a woman who took pictures while her male companion abused children.

Facing a wave of public anger at the leniency of Belgian law regarding convicted child sex offenders, Justice Minister Stefan de Clerck pledged yesterday to make it harder for them to be released from jail early. "A prison commission will now be established to look at all these sort of delicate files," he said.

Public anger, page 3

Heatwave to end before bank holiday

THE heatwave is coming to an end. Yesterday the hottest place in Britain was Nottingham at 89.2F (31.8C). Weathermen had predicted that the 1996 record of 33C in Jersey on July 22 would be beaten. Nice, on the French Riviera, recorded a noon temperature of 27C.

Forecast, page 22

Pets and owners find common ground for ever

By ROBIN YOUNG

A CEMETERY where pets and their owners can be buried together — thought to be Europe's first — won the go-ahead yesterday.

Julian Wedgwood, a greetings card publisher, was to his surprise given planning permission by Torridge District Council for the cemetery at Hunshaw, north Devon.

Among supporters is the rector of Hunshaw, the Rev Richard Acworth. He said funeral services for humans could take place in the church of St Mary Magdalen, followed by burial

under Mr Wedgwood's oaks in what was formerly a glebe field belonging to the church. "I would not hold funeral services in church for pets," he added, "but I would be prepared to say a few prayers at the graveside."

Mr Wedgwood said the idea came to him as he was pruning some of the 2,000 oak trees he planted on a south-facing slope above his home, Hunshaw House, to stop occasional flooding.

"I got to thinking about the Mongols. I realised this was a perfect place for a burial ground. The Mongols always wanted to be buried beneath a

tree on a south-facing slope, and they wanted to be buried with their horses beside them. I had the trees, I had the slope, and I thought, 'Why not bury both pets and people?'"

His scheme is to lease each tree for £150 for ten years, that payment to cover the burial of the first pet. Further pets — anything up to horses — can be interred for a charge according to size. Burial of humans will cost £250 per person, and tree leases will be renewable at terms to be agreed every ten years. "Humans will be buried to the south of the tree, as the Mongols would have insisted," Mr Wedgwood

said. "Pets can go to the east, north or west. If anyone wanted their pet buried alongside them or in a double depth grave, I expect that could be arranged."

The parish council of Hunshaw and Alverdisoff backed the scheme and Mr Wedgwood said he was surprised at the lack of objections. "I put in for it hoping for the best but fearing the worst, but there were only three letters of opposition."

Mr Wedgwood added: "Ecologically it is perfect. Like oak trees, people are made up of carbohydrates. The remains will go to nourish the trees."

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Crown board that thinks the unthinkable

By ALAN HAMILTON

MEMBERS of the Royal Family and their senior advisers have been meeting regularly as a group since 1992 to discuss forward planning and major issues affecting the position and future of the monarchy.

It would be surprising, indeed worrying, if the royal family did not occasionally sit down and contemplate its future. Every government ministry and business corporation has some mechanism for long-distance strategic planning, so why not the Crown?

The group has no official name, no fixed timetable and no formal agenda. Referred to unofficially in some quarters as the Planning Group, it meets twice a year, usually at Sandringham and Balmoral because only during the holiday periods are its members sufficiently free from day-to-day business to find the time.

In the comfortable surroundings of a drawing room at one of the Queen's two private homes, the members talk informally and freely about future plans, which could range from major constitutional issues to the nuts and bolts of overseas royal tours. No one takes the chair, although the Duke of Edinburgh is said to be a particularly active participant.

The meeting is in effect a family council attended by the Queen and Prince Philip, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, Prince Edward and the Princess Royal. Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, and his deputy Robin Janvrin are present, as is



The family firm in action. Behind the scenes, senior members and their advisers meet for strategic planning, in a group with no fixed timetable and no formal agenda

Commander Richard Aylard, the Prince of Wales's private secretary.

The Earl of Airlie, Lord Chamberlain, and Michael Peat, the royal household's director of finance, have attended past meetings to advise on financial aspects.

Monarchs have always held family meetings, if only to discuss the upbringing of their children. The meetings were

put on a slightly more regulated footing at the time of the Queen's *annus horribilis* for two reasons. First, senior Buckingham Palace officials were becoming concerned at the lack of liaison with the Prince of Wales's office at St James's Palace, which they increasingly felt was being run as an independent principality.

Second, the royal family

found itself faced with a number of important decisions. Major issues discussed by the group in the past four years, and subsequently made public when they were firmed up into policy, include: the Queen's decision to pay income tax; the removal of all members of the royal family except the Queen, Prince Philip and the Queen Mother, from the Civil List; the

Queen's decision to fund the restoration of Windsor Castle after the fire; and opening Buckingham Palace to the public.

Another topic at all recent meetings will have been the Prince and Princess of Wales's failed marriage, and what should be done about it.

The group was, however, notably less successful in stirring the parties to early action

than it has been in other, more businesslike, departments of the royal firm.

Government ministers are occasionally invited to take part in the discussions. Peter Brooke, when National Heritage Secretary, sat in on the family debate over what to do about the Windsor fire.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will be present at this summer's group meet-

ing at Balmoral, in order to advise on forthcoming overseas royal visits, which are undertaken only on Foreign Office advice.

The main conduit carrying the views of the group to government, however, is the regular contact between Sir Robert Fellowes and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet secretary.

Although Buckingham Palace refuses to say what is

discussed at group meetings, treating them with the same confidentiality as the Prime Minister's weekly audience with the Queen, it is clear that the informality of the occasions means that anything and everything can be aired, without necessarily becoming set in concrete as official policy.

One visible result of the meetings since 1992 is that, when informal discussions have hardened into decision, the Palace has held open and detailed press briefings on the result, as in the cases of the royal income tax and the Windsor restoration funding. The Queen is well aware, in the current climate, of the need for openness.

The very existence of the meetings is an indication that the Queen has a finger in the wind, and is willing at least to contemplate jumping before she is pushed.

The Palace said yesterday: "It is worth pointing out that one of the reasons the monarchy has lasted for over 1,000 years is that it is able to adapt and change as necessary, whilst retaining the overwhelming public support it enjoys."

□ The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh are to make State visits to India and Pakistan next year, half a century after both countries gained their independence from Britain. Buckingham Palace announced yesterday that the visits would take place in October 1997 at the invitation of the presidents of the two countries. The subcontinent was divided between India and the new Islamic nation of Pakistan on August 14, 1947.

Royal reforms put Blair's head on the party block

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR was given a warning last night that he could face a backbench revolt if a Labour government endorsed moves to end the Civil List and to restore the income from the Crown Estate to the Royal Family.

Tory MPs also expressed private misgivings over the leaked proposals from Buckingham Palace, which they believed were another sign of the monarchy overreacting to public opinion. Some Tory MPs feared the process had been initiated to pave the way for the Prince of Wales to remarry.

Lord Blake, the Tory historian, said last night: "The monarchy has survived much worse than a temporary bout

of unpopularity which is brought about by the activities of the younger royals. Why change an institution which has worked for centuries?"

Tony Blair, who has been kept closely informed of the proposed changes, which might be expected to take place under his prime ministership, was left in no illusion last night about the danger of bringing the Royal Family into Labour Party politics.

Alan Williams, the Labour MP for Swansea West, a leading Commons critic of the funding of the royals, said: "This is nothing but a public relations gambit and another sign of the desperation of the Palace. This is panic, not

constitutional evolution. Prince Charles is terrified that the public will not want him. I cannot believe that Buckingham Palace is still peddling the ludicrous idea that the Crown Estate belongs to the monarch. When Parliament took over the Crown Estate in the 18th century, the responsibility for financing the Civil Service and the judiciary was switched from the monarchy to the government.

"If the Palace is prepared to absorb the costs of the judiciary and the Civil Service once more, in return for the Crown Estate, so be it. The Royal Family might become value for money again."

Another left-wing Labour MP said: "Up to 40 per cent of Labour MPs are in favour of a republic. Constitutional reform of the monarchy is the one the Labour leadership will not address. It will have to — but not by giving back the monarchy the Crown Estate at a further net loss to the taxpayer."

Labour leaders declined to comment on the leaked Palace proposals yesterday, apart from describing them as premature press speculation. But there was confusion in the party hierarchy over its precise policy position.

Aides of Tony Blair said that the party had made a manifesto commitment to reform of the Royal Prerogative. That assertion was contradicted by officials working for Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary. "There are no changes proposed," said one.

Tory MPs were also reluctant to comment yesterday. Sir George Gardiner, the leading right-wing MP, said: "It is right that periodically there should be a period of introspection. There should first be extensive consultation before any of this happens. The Prince of Wales would be advised to feel his way very carefully before considering remarriage."

Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15

When a King is a state employee

By EMMA WILKINS

THE bicycling monarchies of Europe enjoy limited political powers after a series of constitutional changes.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands is known as "the general manager of the Kingdom of Holland" while King Juan Carlos of Spain carries an identity card in common with his subjects. It lists his occupation as "employee of the state".

Queen Beatrix does not enjoy the residual political power held by our Queen but she has a reputation for being firm with cabinet ministers when necessary at her private audiences. She is not afraid to enter politics and speak out.

In Spain, King Juan Carlos has become a widely respected and much-loved figure after an inauspicious start in 1975 as the designated heir of the dictator Franco. In the three years after his succession, the King built up a parliamentary democracy

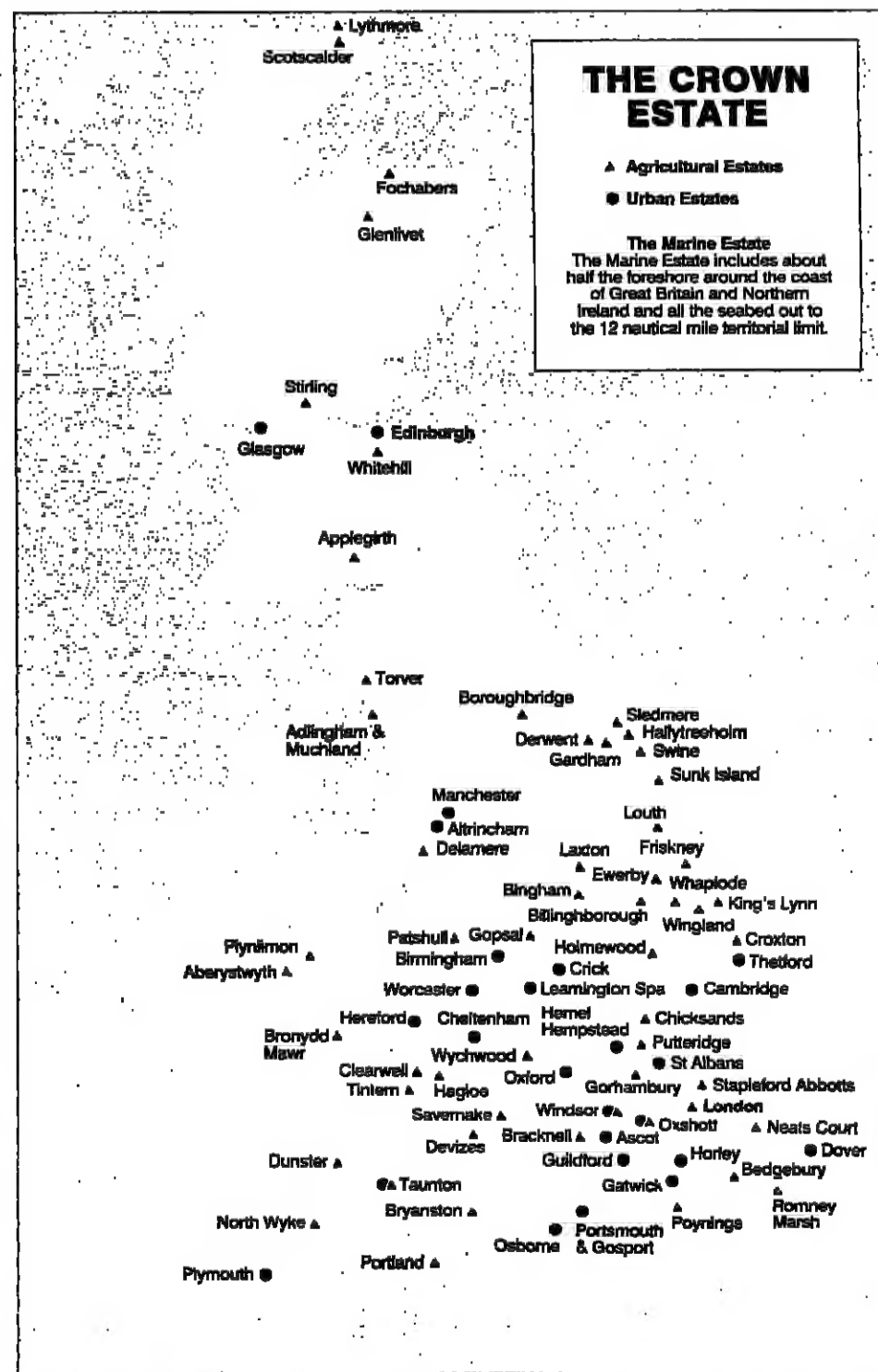
and stripped himself of most of his constitutional powers in the process.

The King and his family are subject to the constitution and not beyond the law, in contrast to the position in Britain where the Queen has complete immunity.

King Harald of Norway, who receives just £1.8 million from the state, retains the power of veto over legislation passed by the Storting, his country's parliament.

The King of Norway, like the British Queen, remains "Defender of the Faith" — in this case the Lutheran state religion. Until 1990 women were not eligible to succeed to the throne.

King Carl Gustav of Sweden costs his taxpayers £2 million while Queen Margrethe of Denmark, a highly intelligent monarch who speaks five languages and designs costumes for the Danish Royal Ballet, costs £3.5 million.



How the Crown Estate yielded £94.6m to Treasury last year

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Crown Estate, with its origins in the reign of Edward the Confessor, is traditionally surrendered by the monarch to the Government at the start of each new reign. The Treasury then reaps the substantial profits, which last year climbed to £94.6 million. Until 1760, the monarch

received all the rent and profits, but George III surrendered them in return for a parliamentary allowance, known as the Civil List.

The estate does not include royal palaces or the Queen's private homes. It is a commercial undertaking encompassing 250,000 acres of agricultural land spreading from Devon to Caithness, occupied

by 600 tenants. The estate also owns several lucrative urban properties including most of Regent Street. Other holdings include Windsor Great Park (but not the castle), business parks and shopping centres.

Crown Estate land encompasses more than half of the UK foreshore, and almost all the seabed out to the 12-mile territorial limit.

The main issues under discussion

One of the most contentious issues facing the monarchy is how it is funded. It currently receives money from the Civil List, through which the taxpayer pays £7.9 million a year for the Queen's working expenses, and £500,000 each to the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. The Prince of Wales is funded entirely by private revenues from the Duchy of Cornwall.

All other members of the Royal Family who perform public duties are financed from the Queen's private resources. The total cost of the monarchy, including the Royal Squadron aircraft, Royal Yacht, Royal Train and other benefits that are funded through individual government departments, is estimated at £50 million a year.

The proposal is that the monarchy be wholly funded by profits from the Crown Estate, as it was until 1760. This, it has been argued, would remove royal financing completely from the political arena, although this overlooks the fact that before 1760 the Crown had to pay the salaries of judges and ambassadors. In March 1996 the Crown Estate handed over to the Treasury profits of £94.6 million.

PRIMOGENITURE

English tradition reaching back to the Norman Conquest dictates that the eldest male shall inherit land and title, with daughters having little look-in unless there are no sons. Queen Elizabeth II reigns because she has no brothers.

Sweden and Norway have abandoned such sexist practices and have ruled that their monarch's eldest-born shall succeed, irrespective of sex.

The question is unlikely to arise in the United Kingdom for many years: the Prince of Wales is the Queen's eldest child; the Prince's own children are both male.

The proposal to introduce inheritance by the first-born is the most likely change to be introduced by the monarchy in the foreseeable future, as it accords with current egalitarian thinking, but has no immediate implications.

SHRINKING THE CLAN

At least 12 members of the Royal Family undertake official functions although most no longer receive their working expenses from the taxpayer. Public perception is still of an over-large tribe living off public money, but this is a largely unjustified view. The proposal is that a much-reduced number, restricted to the monarch's most immediate family, should perform public duties. As minor royals such as the Duchess of Kent and Princess Alexandra carry out a number of unsung but widely-appreciated charitable duties, it is unlikely that they would be stopped from doing so in their lifetimes.

ADMITTING CATHOLICS

Constitutional experts have frequently called for a repeal of the Act of Settlement, passed in 1701 to prevent the Stuarts regaining the throne after the flight of the Catholic-minded James II from a predominantly Protestant England. A year later the last Stuart, Queen Anne, took the throne, tolerated because of her avowed Protestant faith. On her death in 1714 the throne went to George I of Han-

over, direct descendant of James VI of Scotland and the first available Protestant in line of succession. The continued existence of the Act is often seen as an anachronism and an insult to Catholics in Britain. Any attempt at its repeal, however, would engender howls of protest from the established Church of the United Kingdom, and could well create mayhem in Northern Ireland.

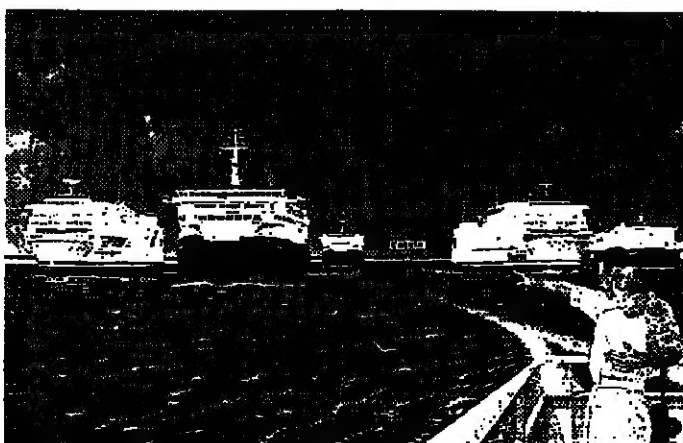
CEASING TO DEFEND THE FAITH

All British monarchs since Henry VIII have taken the title Defender of the Faith, bestowed by Pope Leo X in 1521. Most have also been Supreme Governor of the Church of England. As the established Church of England, the Anglican Church enjoys certain privileges, including the right of bishops to sit in the House of Lords. A devoted Anglican, the Queen would not lightly abandon her position as the Church's titular head on Earth. But the Church itself is in a period of upheaval, and disestablishment at the end of the Queen's reign has been mooted even by some Anglicans. The Prince of Wales has said that, in a multi-cultural society such as the United Kingdom today, he would rather be "Defender of Faiths" to encompass the country's significant Muslim, Jewish and Hindu minorities.

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Former minister overruled prosecutor to allow abuser out of jail after only quarter of his sentence

Belgian justice in the dock over paedophile who was freed early

FROM ROGER BOYES IN CHARLEROI

BELGIUM'S former Justice Minister went to ground yesterday as public anger centred on why he allowed Marc Dutroux to be freed after serving only three years of a 13-year sentence for the sexual abuse of children.

Melchior Wathelet overruled the public prosecutor and used his special powers to release Dutroux for good behaviour. His wife was also

released early, after serving half of her six-year sentence for assisting in his crimes.

"Do you have an easy conscience, Mr Wathelet?" reads a note pinned to the door of the parents of Mélissa Russo, one of two eight-year-olds whose bodies were found in Dutroux's garden at the weekend. Marie-France Botte, a child-rights activist, denounced the decision to re-

lease him as ridiculous. "How could our justice system and Mr Wathelet ignore the fact that 50 per cent of child-sex offenders repeat their crime within 48 hours of being released?" The crowd around Dutroux's house shouted, above the noise of the diggers and pneumatic drills in the garden, for the restoration of the death sentence: some newspapers agreed.

Mr Wathelet is believed to be on holiday in Italy, but his home was under heavy guard yesterday. His successor, Stefan de Clerck, pledged to tighten the rules on early release for child-sex offenders. He said: "A prison commission will now be established to look at all these sort of delicate files. Only if there is unanimous agreement could there possibly be an early release."

However, Mr de Clerck had difficulties in explaining the catalogue of blunders that led to at least two child murders and two recent abductions. First, the police did not involve parents in their search for the missing children, even though they had information which could have been useful. The police were wary of theories about organised paedophile gangs and, until about ten days ago, pursued almost every other line of investigation instead.

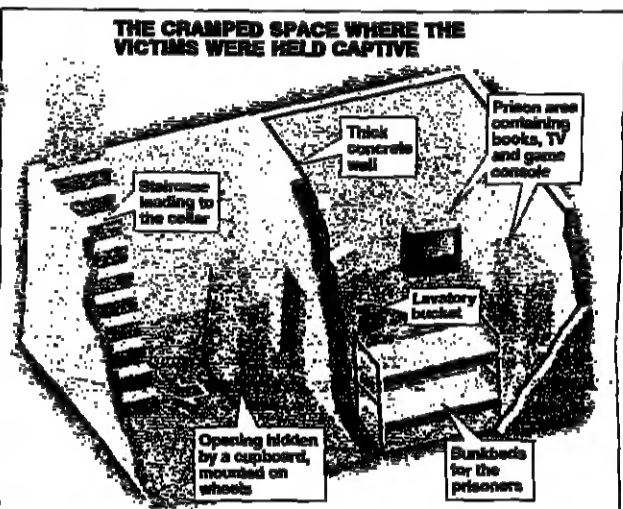
Second, after Dutroux was released from prison, he was not monitored. Neighbours now say that he worked busily at nights in his garden. He was an unemployed electrician, but owned 11 houses; some reports say 13. He roamed the country. Yet when the two girls disappeared in June 1995, he was not thoroughly investigated. Police pulled him in on their charges last winter, but did not press paedophile charges. The accu-



A father signing a book of condolences for the murdered eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Mélissa Russo near Charleroi yesterday



Dutroux admits kidnapping Eefje Lambrechts, left, and An Marchal, who went missing last year



sations of theft did not hold up and he was released after a few months. Third, the police twice searched the house where the two girls were held and discovered nobody.

British police officers, such as Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, who has been investigating paedophile networks, have some sympathy with their Belgian colleagues. "It is a problem of balancing civil liberties against the protection of the child," he said on BBC television yesterday, pointing out that sometimes only tearing down the suspect's house would disclose hidden captives or corpses. The girls were hidden in a concrete dungeon, where they died of starvation while Dutroux was in detention last winter.

Finally, Belgian law on

child rape is relatively mild. Louis Dumont, a defrocked 73-year-old priest, was sentenced in 1992 to three years' detention, after being found guilty with two others of rape and child abuse.

The difficulties of unravelling a big paedophile network has already become apparent. Dutroux, who so far has been charged only with kidnapping and imprisonment of minors, is believed by the prosecutor to have supplied young children to a 54-year-old Brussels estate agent, who has been charged with criminal association.

Dutroux's confessions have, however, confused rather than clarified the investigation. He has taken detectives to the three graves in his garden, but denies murdering the two girls. He admits only the

murder of a male accomplice after he neglected to feed them. But he has told the police that he was involved in the abduction of Eefje Lambrechts, 19, and An Marchal, 17, in the Ostend area. This mesh of statements may be designed to obscure what the police now believe to be the real point of his activities: to arrange for children to be filmed during sex.

Police said yesterday that Dutroux has remained incredibly calm as the revelations unfolded. He has been kept in isolation in Namur jail, partly to protect him from assault by other prisoners, who regard child abusers as the lowest in the pecking order.

Julie Lejeune and Mélissa Russo will be buried on Thursday, Belgian television said. The bodies of the two girls

were handed over to their parents in Grace-Hollogne, near the eastern city of Liège, yesterday after an autopsy officially confirmed their identities. Hundreds of sympathisers queued outside the funeral parlour to pay their respects to the children, who were lying side by side in two white coffins.

Dutroux, 39, comes from a family of five children. His parents moved to the Belgian Congo when he was a baby, but returned to Belgium in the 1960s. They divorced and Dutroux was brought up mainly by his maternal grandmother.

He is a wiry man with a trim moustache, apparently attractive to women. He is a drifter who, after completing his electrician's apprenticeship, dabbled in petty crime.

The prosecutor's office believes that he dragged his wife into at least some of his recent activities.

Paedophilia has become big business on the Continent, in part because of a relatively tolerant atmosphere in The Netherlands. Last May, two men and a woman were arrested in Belgium for running a paedophile gang near Antwerp since 1992. The men operated a baby-sitting business and abused the children while the woman filmed and photographed them. The resulting pictures were sold in The Netherlands.

The link is between Amsterdam — the hub of Europe's paedophile business — Rotterdam and Antwerp. Police in southern Belgium were reluctant to believe that the gangs had spread to their region.

Boys' DNA tested in Brittany murder case

BY JOANNA BALE AND PAUL WILKINSON

FRENCH detectives took samples for DNA tests from five teenage boys yesterday on the first day of their inquiry in Britain into the rape and murder last month of the schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson.

The boys were driven at high speed in an unmarked police car through the gates of Launceston police station in Cornwall. Two unmarked cars followed, containing some of the girls also on the school trip with Caroline, 13, when she was suffocated at a youth hostel in Brittany.

The children, not accompanied by their parents, spent two hours giving blood and saliva samples and being interviewed by British detectives guided by the five English-speaking gendarmes. The British officers will conduct further interviews with the children in suites equipped with videotape facilities and two-way mirrors. Social workers and child psychologists were on hand.

The five boys and the girls — believed to have been sharing a room with Caroline — will be interviewed over several days using a 25-page ques-

tionnaire and a computer which instantly translates English into French and relays it back to France. The boys' parents gave permission for their sons to give samples for DNA testing, to be matched with semen found on Caroline's body.

The Mayor of Launceston, Barry Jordan, expressed concern that the man leading the investigation, the French examining magistrate Gérard Zaig, was reportedly on holiday, fearing that this might cause delay. "These children have been through an awfully traumatic time and they are willing to do anything to help the police. I have no criticism of the French police for coming here to reinterview them," Mr Jordan said.

French police declined to comment on whether progress would be affected by M Zaig's absence. The boys, from Launceston College, are not thought to be suspects in the murder last month at a youth hostel in Pleine Fougères, but police wish to rule them out of the inquiry. Thirty-nine students on the trip are being asked to submit all photo-

graphs taken in Brittany, for possible clues.

French police believe the man who murdered Caroline might have been responsible for an incident three hours earlier in which a man tried to suffocate a 14-year-old on a trip from Hope High School, Salford, as she slept at a youth hostel 25 miles away in St Lunière. The parents of the children involved in that incident have complained that they were not informed. The school party returned to England the next day, and the matter was not reported to police until the school heard about the nearby murder.

Yesterday Greater Manchester Police said they had spoken to students and teachers from the school and passed on information to Devon and Cornwall Police.

One Salford parent said: "The school has not been on to tell us officially about the incident and I think the whole thing is terrible. From what I can gather, no one seems to have believed the girls."

Two further incidents at youth hostels in Brittany bear similar hallmarks.



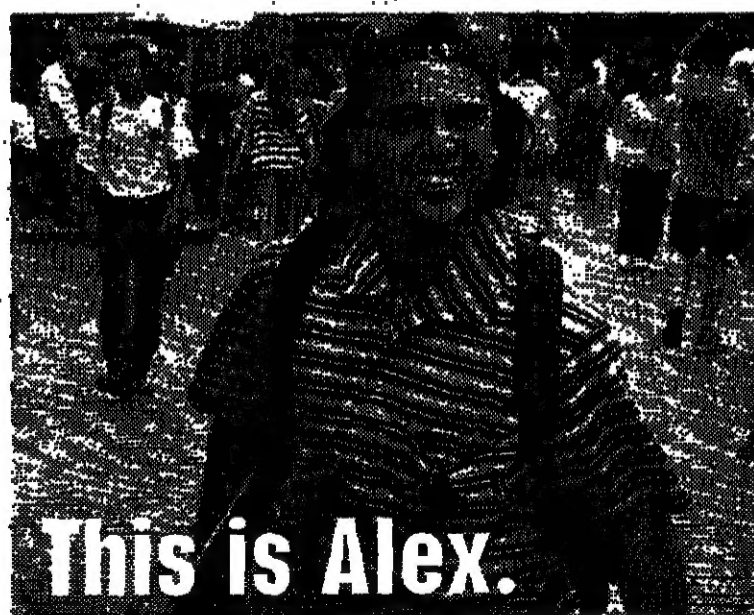
William Wates

Hostel link to Briton's murderer

POLICE in Honduras said yesterday that they were closing in on the killer of William Wates, the son of a millionaire builder. They believe that the 19-year-old, who had finished a tree-planting project and was travelling alone before starting university, was shot by a man who shared his room at a cheap hostel. Mr Wates was seen leaving with some people.

Mr Wates's father Andrew, 55, the owner of the Grand National winner Rough Quest, was expected to arrive in the South American country yesterday with another of his five sons, Tim.

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Koo Stark refuses to identify the father of her 'wonderful surprise'

BY ADRIAN LEE

KOO STARK, 40, former girlfriend of the Duke of York, is expecting her first child but said yesterday that she may never reveal the father's identity.

Miss Stark said her pregnancy had come as a "wonderful surprise". She is still a close friend of the Duke, dancing with him at a recent party to mark the tenth anniversary of his failed marriage.

Miss Stark, an American-born photographer who is divorced from Tim Jefferies, the Green Shield stamps heir, said: "The father knows, and I believe I will have his loyalty

he is. I feel strongly that this is a private matter, and the child should know before the rest of the world."

Miss Stark told Hello! magazine: "I wish to state now that I will never publicly reveal the identity of the father unless it is both his wish and that of the child... I have never had a moment's hesitation or depression about it, and I haven't felt as well for ages." She admitted that the baby had not been planned and said she had at first thought she was suffering from the after-effects of two recent operations. "It seems that it is my fate to bear this child out of love and out of wedlock. It's

wouldn't advocate it, but these are my circumstances, and personally I'm absolutely thrilled to be having the baby."

In an ideal world, she said, a child would grow up within marriage, in a stable home, with two loving parents. She would provide a loving environment and "pray that one day there will be a husband to help me". He could be either the baby's natural father or someone to fill the role.

Miss Stark dated the Duke 15 years ago and said she would be "greatly honoured" if he became her baby's godfather, adding: "I think that's a matter to be discussed after the baby's birth."

the Duke and Duchess of York's party, she said: "My friendship with the Duke is the one thing that has lasted through everything." Only she and the Duchess danced with the Duke at the party.

Miss Stark, a Buddhist, whose father died from cancer a year ago, said she intended to raise her child in England. Since the end of her 18-month relationship with the Duke, Miss Stark has been linked to several men. While with the Duke she was invited to stay at Balmoral but her past was deemed to make her an unsuitable Royal bride. She has declined large offers to talk about her romance with the Duke, earning the belated

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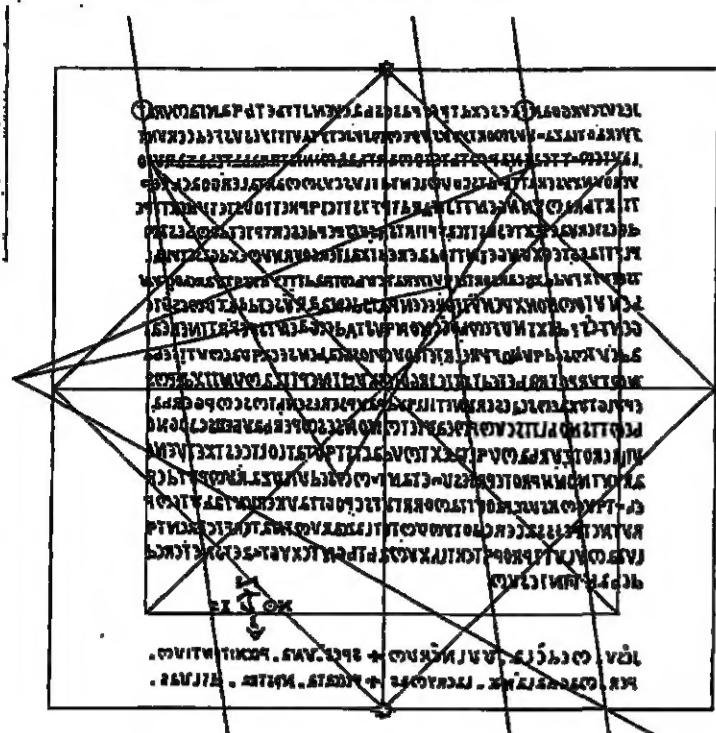
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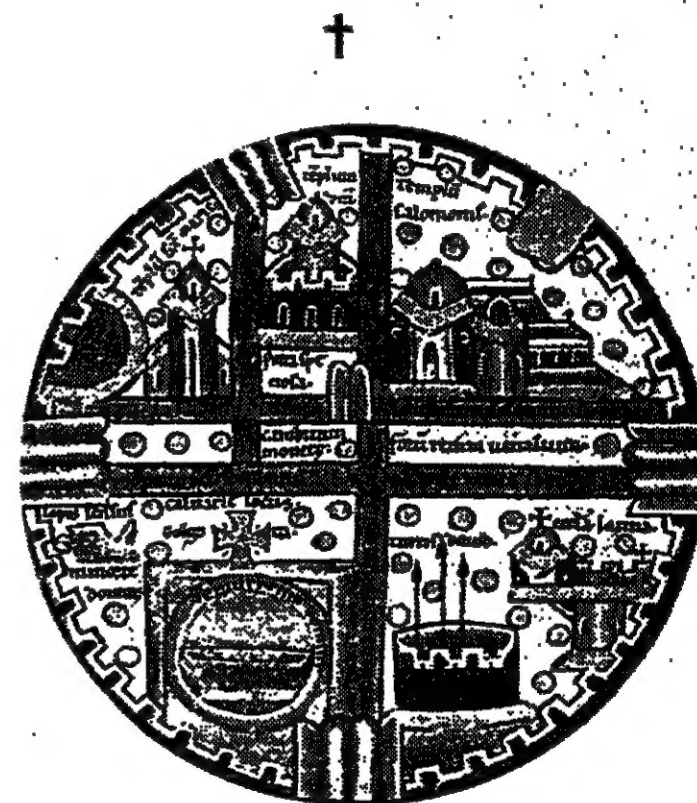
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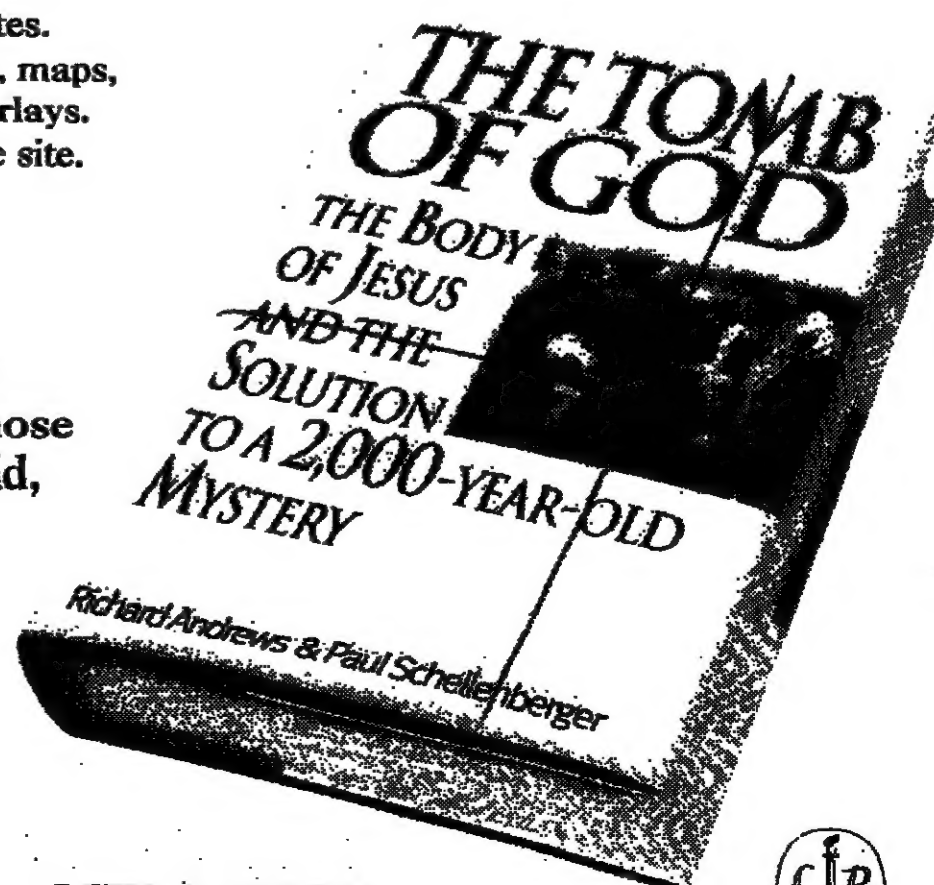
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A BBC *Timewatch* documentary on the world-shattering revelations of *The Tomb of God* will be shown in the Autumn.



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Parents call for public inquiry

Coroner says BSE
beefburgers may
have killed student

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE parents of a student who died from the brain disease CJD welcomed the verdict of a coroner yesterday who said their son was probably killed by eating beefburgers contaminated with BSE.

Peter Hall began suffering memory loss as an A-level student but won a place to read maths at Newcastle University before the disease reduced him, over three years, to a shambling wreck. He died in February, aged 20.

At the inquest into his death in Durham yesterday, the coroner Geoffrey Burt recorded a verdict of misadventure. He said: "It cannot be proved scientifically there is a link between CJD and BSE. We base our decisions on the level of proof and the basis of probabilities. I cannot see any reasonable explanation for a young man contracting CJD."

"Like many people his age, he had a liking for snack food and beefburgers. It is well known that not all beefburgers are made from the finest quality beef."

Peter's mother, Frances Hall, said after the hearing: "We are very pleased and surprised at the outcome of the case. We will carry on with our fight now because someone is to blame for this. The Government has known there has been a problem for a lot of years but they kept it quiet."

Derek Hall said: "It provides more ammunition for us to get things moving towards a public inquiry."

The couple, of Chester-le-Sweet, County Durham, who have another son John, 25, filmed the latter stages of

Peter's illness to illustrate the affects of the disease. The inquest was the first to be held in the United Kingdom into a variant of CJD called Kuru, found originally among the Fore tribe of South East Asia, who practised ritual cannibalism. Just 11 other cases have been diagnosed in Britain in the past three years. At first, neurologists refused to consider it was CJD because the illness normally affects much older people.

Mr Hall told the inquest that his son became a vegetarian four years ago after watching a TV programme about cruelty to animals. He said: "Before that he liked beef burgers as a quick snack. He liked brisket too and we would have that more often than not on a Sunday."

The illness first manifested itself through memory loss when his son was a sixth-former. He went up to Newcastle University to read maths, but difficulty concentrating forced him to drop out after three months. The following year he started an environmental studies course at Sunderland. His father said: "Then he began to come home more and more often."

Peter lost weight and started suffering problems with his balance. He was eventually admitted to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle, where experts believed he was suffering from a degenerative brain disorder. In December last year, his parents allowed the independent expert Dr Harash Narang to make a sample of their son's urine to test for CJD. It proved posi-

tive. He died on February 8. Dr David Burn, a consultant neurologist, said tests showed Mr Hall had two rogue genes, a "statistical improbability", which made him susceptible to CJD.

Dr Robert Perry, a consultant neuropathologist at Newcastle General Hospital, questioned by Jonathan Glasson for the Hall family, said: "My personal view is that BSE might be passed on by eating meat with offal in it which is infected. I am sure BSE can be transferred to man but it depends how. Most neurologists would link CJD to the BSE epidemic but would probably not say so in public."

Last night the Department of Health said: "Our position remains unaltered. There is no scientific proof that humans can contract CJD from beef."



Kidd minutes before crashing at the show. He remains unconscious as doctors study brain scans

Doctors confirm that
Kidd has brain damage

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE career of one of Britain's most colourful stuntmen appeared to be over yesterday as doctors confirmed that Eddie Kidd, the daredevil motorbike rider, had suffered brain damage as a result of his accident nine days ago.

Mr Kidd, 36, has been in a coma on a life-support machine at Warwick hospital since falling from his motorbike while attempting a 50 ft leap over a speeding car at a motorbike show on August 11. He lost control of his bike after completing the jump and plunged 20 feet down an earth bank.

Dr Jagat Aulakh, director of intensive care at Warwick hospital, said yesterday that the stunt rider was undergoing daily brain scans to assess the extent of the damage and was being kept heavily sedated and on a ventilator.

In a brief statement, he added: "Serial brain scans have shown the injury getting worse initially, but then to stabilise. He will be kept as he is until there is evidence of improvement on scanning."

Mr Kidd, who has complet-

ed an estimated 12,000 jumps in his 20-year career, liked to boast that he had never broken a bone in his body. He took up stunt riding at the age of 15, hoping to emulate his hero, the American Evel Knievel. His worst previous injury came three years ago when a hotel window fell onto his foot.

The former star of a Levi's jeans advert claimed the only thing that frightened him was women. His turbulent private life ensured regular appearances in the gossip columns and, occasionally, the courts.

His wife, Sarah, 28, a former waitress at the London nightclub Stringfellows whom he married four years ago, has returned from a holiday in France to be with him. The couple, who have a two-year-old son, Jack, separated briefly last October. Mr Kidd has also been visited by his first wife, the actress Debbie Ashe, by whom he has a 13-year-old daughter, Candy, and his parents.

The leap at Long Marston airfield, near Stafford, which

ended in disaster was modest by Mr Kidd's standards. He is used to clearing rows of double-decker buses and recently soared over the Great Wall of China. The jump was, however, harder than it seemed: Mr Kidd had increased the danger by choosing to land on a ramp that sloped up, rather than down.

A spokeswoman for Warwick hospital said that Mr Kidd, who also has a fractured pelvis, had not regained consciousness since the accident but this was partly due to the heavy sedation he was under.

Ian Garrow, chief executive of Headway, the National Head Injuries Association, said that a person who was unconscious for more than six hours would suffer some residual deficit in physical or mental performance, although it could be difficult to detect.

"It is too early to say what the outcome for Eddie Kidd will be, but for the foreseeable future he is unlikely to be able to return to his former occupation."

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The coroner, Geoffrey Burt, and Peter Hall. Evidence said BSE can be passed to humans

Talks on cull boycott

The Government began talks with abattoir owners in Northern Ireland yesterday to try to stop a boycott of the cull of older cattle spreading to the rest of Britain (Michael Hornsby writes).

All eight abattoirs in Northern Ireland stopped taking part in the cull from yesterday because the Government wanted to cut the £87.50 fee for every animal slaughtered. The cull began in May throughout Britain as part of measures to fight BSE and the Irish abattoirs were killing about 4,000 cattle a week.

Officials from the Intervention Board, the government agency running the cull, met representatives of the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters' Association at the Ministry of Agriculture in London. The board is to hold talks with the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, representing abattoirs in England, today.

Judge's
warning
against
'lynch law'

By RICHARD FORD

A JUDGE gave warning yesterday of the danger of people taking the law into their own hands when he jailed a man for unlawfully imprisoning someone he suspected of burgling his home.

"People who go out looking for perpetrators of crime in order to wreak vengeance and seek information are behaving like a lynch mob," Judge Hammond told Manchester Crown Court. "Journalists think they are impressing the public by lauding the efforts of people who behave in this way. Sooner or later it is going to bring about something awful to an innocent person."

Ian Johnson, 28, was given a one-month prison sentence, suspended for a year, after he admitted unlawfully imprisoning a man. Johnson, an assistant manager at a tyre depot, thought the man could have broken into his home and stolen his father's war medals, the court was told. When he saw the man in the street, he decided on impulse to try to get information about the burglary.

Johnson, of Manchester, and a friend drove the man to an isolated spot and questioned him for 20 minutes before releasing him. The man was not charged with burglary.

Parents are
told how to
play down
toy adverts

By CAROL MIDDLEY

PARENTS exasperated by "pester power" - successful nagging by children who want the latest toys shown in television commercials - are being offered help by advertisers.

Jenina Das, of the Advertising Association, said that parents needed to show their children how to develop a "hype detector" and a "healthy dose of consumer scepticism" towards advertisements, as dozens more channels become available on cable and satellite.

The association, which represents advertisers and the media, has issued a free booklet, *Parent Power*, advising parents how to influence the way children look at advertisements and how to complain about ones which offend them. The guide is being distributed by the association and in the autumn term issue of *Home & School*, the magazine of the National Confederation of Parent-Teacher Associations.

Ms Das said: "When we were young, our parents only had to contend with two or three terrestrial channels and a handful of radio stations. Now there are dozens. Children grow up in a commercial world."

Geoffrey Dearmer, last of the war poets, dies at 103

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE last surviving poet of the First World War has died at the age of 103. Geoffrey Dearmer, the soldier-poet whose verse was inspired by the horrors of war, died in sheltered accommodation near Margate, Kent, on Sunday night.

He had survived the brutality of Gallipoli and the Western Front. Although the war took the lives of his younger brother and his mother, Dearmer never fell victim to bitterness; his writing never reflected the shock and the violence felt by such contemporaries as Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. He drew strength from a faith in God and tempered sadness with optimism.

On the death of his brother at Gallipoli in 1915, just days before he arrived there, he wrote: "Your blood shall help to purify the world." In his poem, *The Somme*, as much about renewal as slaughter, a river sings: "Though battling armies/ come and go/ I reap and sow/ And poppy-mantled meadows blow/ In murdered Picardy."

Anita Ballin, of the Imperial War Museum, said: "Dearmer was an amazing man.



Dearmer: he tempered sadness with optimism

He's not the most famous of the war poets, but it's the end of an era in which people expressed their views from their own experiences.

"The scale of the First World War was so enormous; it had such an impact on so many people's lives. Poetry was one way that people who'd been there and come out of it very scarred could express feelings of anger, grief and torment."

Jon Stallworthy, Professor of English literature at Oxford and Owen's biographer, said

yesterday: "He was the oldest of our old soldiers and the oldest of our old poets. He was a true poet, born in the same year as Wilfred Owen and brought up in the same religious faith and tradition. But, unlike Owen and Sassoon, his trust in God survived the horrors first of Gallipoli and then of the Somme. He was sustained by the beauty of the natural world."

"In a sense, his work is not to be seen in the same register as Owen and Sassoon, but more of the school of Rupert Brooke. His faith in God was such that he never seemed to feel the enormity and horrors of the war. He believed there was a pattern and that God was behind the pattern. That kept him going. Dearmer lived through the horrors, but was not traumatised by them, as many of the others were."

He added that Dearmer's poetry painted him as "a man of great sweetness and gentleness". His best-known work, *The Turkish Trench Dog*, extracted humour from the most unlikely scenario. One reviewer in the 1920s spoke of a dignity that approached grandeur.

Dearmer published two acclaimed collections in the aftermath of the war and later spent 20 years as an editor on the BBC radio show *Children's Hour*. His 100th birthday was celebrated with a new edition of his works, *A Pilgrim's Song*.

Laurence Cottle, who put together the centenary publication, said that Dearmer was so modest a character that he had not bothered to keep copies of his poems or reviews. "When he was published in 1918 by William Heinemann and in 1924 by John Murray, he was praised to the hilt on both sides of the Atlantic."

"Dearmer probably saw more action than most, but was never embittered. Most men in the trenches would have looked down and seen mud swirling around their boots, but he looked up and saw the stars. I never heard him say anything unpleasant about anyone."

Obituary, page 17

The Turkish Trench Dog

Night held me as I crawled and scrambled near
The Turkish lines. Above, the mocking stars
Silvered the curving parapet, and clear
Cloud-latticed beams of reflected light with bars:
I, crouching, lay between
Tense-listening armies peering through the night.
Twin giants bound by tentacles unseen.
Here in dim-shadowed light
I saw him, as a sudden movement turned
His eyes towards me, glowing eyes that burned
A moment as his snuffing muzzle found
My trail; and then as serpents mesmerise
He chained me with those unrelenting eyes.
That muscle-sliding rhythm, knitted and bound
In spare-limbed symmetry, those perfect jaws
And soft-approaching pitter-patter paws.
Nearer and nearer like a wolf he crept —
That moment had my swift revolver leapt —
But terror seized me, terror born of shame
Brought flooding revelation. For he came
As one who offers comradeship deserved.
An open ally of the human race,
And sniffing at my prostrate form unnerved
He licked my face!

GEOFFREY DEARMER



Lewis in action. He said: "I can think that I did the distance. I knew that I was risking my life"

Swimmer crossing the Irish Sea passes out 100 metres from shore

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A LONG-DISTANCE swimmer attempting to cross the Irish Sea passed out in the water barely 100 metres from the finish line. Paul Lewis, 35, of Poole, Dorset, had battled for 14½ hours against icy cold water, strong currents and jelly-fish stings before losing consciousness within sight of his intended landing beach.

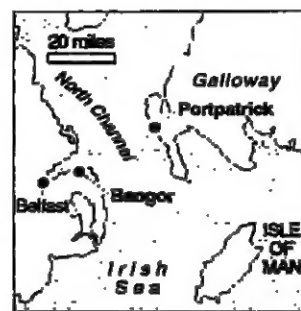
The 22-mile crossing from Portpatrick on the west coast of Scotland to Bangor in Ireland is regarded as one of the most difficult in the world and has been completed by only two people. Mr Lewis was making his first attempt. Last night he said it would also be his last.

"I can think in my own mind that I did it and that I did the distance," he said. "I knew I was risking my life. It just did not feel right. I was

unnaturally cold and any more time at all and I would have been dead."

Wearing only trunks — the rules prevent the use of wet suits — his only protection against the cold was a silicon swimming hat and a mixture of lanolin and petroleum jelly covering his body. Mr Lewis believes he lost consciousness about 800 metres from the shore but continued moving for a further 700 metres.

His wife Janet, a physiotherapist, helped to revive him after he was pulled on board the safety boat. He was then taken to hospital in Belfast and treated for hypothermia. Mrs Lewis said: "It is terribly sad for him but at least he survived. I thought he was having a heart attack." Mr Lewis is a projects



group manager with Chase Manhattan Bank in Poole, and has two daughters. He has swum the English Channel, which he said was "a doddle" in comparison with the Irish Sea.

Alison Streeter, who holds the world's fastest time for swimming the Irish Sea — 9 hours 53 minutes in 1988 — said it was one of the most difficult crossings in the world. She and her mother

Freda, who is Mr Lewis's trainer, were in mobile-phone contact with Mrs Lewis throughout the swim ten days ago. She said: "The problem is the cold and there was a lot of chop on the sea when he did it. That puts an extreme strain on the swimmer." Bill Wallace, an official observer of the swim, said: "He was so courageous, the poor chap gave his all."

The Irish Sea and the English Channel are approximately the same width. While 499 swimmers have crossed the English Channel, only five have successfully swum the Irish Sea.

Just two — Kevin Murphy of London and Ms Streeter of Redhill, Surrey — have crossed from Scotland to Ireland, which is deemed more difficult because of the current flow around Belfast Lough.

Vandals destroy trout at fish farm

Vandals have destroyed more than 12 tonnes of trout at a fish farm in North Yorkshire.

They used plastic bags to block the flow of water from a river into a holding pool at the Moorlands Trout Farm near Pickering. Deprived of fresh, oxygenated water, the fish are thought to have died within 20 minutes.

Judith O'Donnell, who runs the farm with her husband Michael, said the rainbow trout, worth £32,000, constituted a third of their business.

Bail refused

The daughter of a convicted Mafia chief was refused bail by the High Court while she awaits proceedings to extradite her to Italy. Marius Merico, 26, facing drug charges, has served a British jail sentence for smuggling laundered money. The court was told her father once ran a crime family of 200 members.

Arson charges

Two boys, aged 14 and 16, have been charged with arson after a fire in Nottingham on Sunday. The blaze, that took seven hours to bring under control, caused damage to Habitat and Next stores, estimated at more than £5 million. Police are appealing for a third youth, aged 16, to come forward with information.

New van for firm

The firm whose van was wrecked when a private jet ploughed into the A40 in west London last week, Clive Waldron Upholstery, of Reading, received a replacement after Cornhill Insurance agreed the claim in 24 hours. The driver, Gary Jewell, who was not badly hurt in the crash, was there as the new van was delivered.

Web couple wed

Cindy Irish, of Hartford, Connecticut, and Adrian Philpott, of Aberdeen, were married in the bridegroom's home town after meeting on the Internet. They exchanged vows at a ceremony in Aberdeen three days after meeting each other for the first time in a transatlantic computer-based romance that began in May.

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Advice for students in clearing

Employers favour recruits from older universities

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

EMPLOYERS are creating their own "premier league" of universities, according to a survey to assist students contemplating the clearing process, which began yesterday and gives rejected applicants a second chance of a higher education place.

Traditional universities filled almost all of the top places in a table of top British companies' main recruiting grounds. Only one new university — Glasgow Caledonian — appeared among the top 25. The survey was conducted by Mander Portman Woodward tutorial colleges as a guide to students deciding whether to retake A levels or settle for alternative courses if they miss their chosen programmes. Joe Ruston, MPW's chairman, said students needed to know the likely status of different degrees before making their choices.

Oxford and Cambridge Universities topped the poll of 105 leading companies, almost half of which said they had definite preferences in seeking graduate recruits. Manchester, Nottingham and Leeds were the next most popular universities.

Mr Ruston said: "We wanted to see if there was a premier league of universities in the minds of employers. The results show that there is and it is important that students are aware of this when they decide whether to lower their sights in clearing."

Regional preferences and companies' links in specialist fields might have influenced the final positions, Mr Ruston said. But the overall ranking showed a general preference for the most prestigious universities.

A parallel survey last year among 155 large companies also suggested that big recruiters were concentrating their efforts on traditional universities. Although a variety of names came to the fore when the list was broken down into

COMPANY CHOICE

- 1.....Oxford
- 2.....Cambridge
- 3.....Manchester
- 4.....Nottingham
- 5.....Leeds
- 6.....Birmingham
- 7.....Edinburgh
- 8.....Loughborough
- 9.....Bristol
- 10.....Durham
- 11.....UMIST
- 12.....Warwick
- 13.....Sheffield
- 14.....Imperial College
- 15.....Newcastle
- 16.....Aston
- 17.....Glasgow Caledonian
- 18.....Queen Mary & Westfield
- 19.....Strathclyde
- 20.....Bath
- 21.....Exeter
- 22.....Glasgow
- 23.....LSE

different subjects, almost all were traditional universities.

The Performance Indicator Project, run from Harlaxton College, Grantham, and Nottingham Trent University, found that Cambridge University was employers' favourite, followed by the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Manchester, Bristol and Oxford Universities were next.

Employers are tending to concentrate on a limited number of universities, rather than join the traditional "milk round" of interviews for graduate places. Both surveys suggest the practice was narrowing the focus of top companies, although new universities were responding with courses tailored for particular industries.

The official start of clearing showed that applicants were aware of the trends. Although most traditional universities had places available through clearing, most of the 21,000 courses with vacancies were in new universities and colleges

of higher education. Some of the leading universities had already closed their lists yesterday. Bristol University was among the first to announce that all its courses were full. Oxford and Cambridge never enter clearing.

Sheffield University had only three subject areas with more than a few vacancies. Andrew Hindmarch, who is responsible for admissions, said there had been "a polarisation of applications for a few years and students seem to be even more focused this time. We no longer have the long tail of applicants with little realistic chance of a place and there are far more with good grades."

The pace of clearing continued yesterday well ahead of previous years, with 15,000 more students confirmed on degree courses compared with the same time last year. Although 206,329 of the 290,000 places have been filled, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service said the number of different courses with vacancies was well up on the 14,000 available at this stage a year ago. These figures suggest there are many courses with just a handful of openings which may well disappear in the next few days.

All the places on medicine, veterinary science and dentistry courses have been filled, but openings will remain in engineering and some science subjects throughout the clearing period, which lasts until the end of next month.

More than £27 million is to be made available by the Government to help students with financial problems in the new academic year. Students had hoped for an increase, but Lord Henley, the Education Minister, said the "very tough climate of funding constraints" meant that last year's figure had been maintained.

Engineering and technology vacancies, page 19



Ugly business: Woods says he was asked to look "as sinister as possible" but wasn't told about the poster

I'll be voting Labour, says man who helped to put the evil eye on Blair

By CAROL MIDDLEY

THE actor whose eyes were used to portray the hidden face of Labour revealed himself fully yesterday, as a Blair supporter who disapproved of the much-vilified Tory poster.

Scott Woods, 42, who plays a serial killer in his latest film, was recruited through Ugly, an actors' agency. He knew he was being photographed for a Conservative poster, but said he was not told that his striking eyes would be superimposed on the face of the Labour leader.

The advertisement, devised by Maurice Saatchi and approved by the Tory party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, has been criticised for its use of demonic imagery. The Advertising Standards Authority has written to M & C Saatchi inviting it to defend a claim that the poster may breach the British Code of Advertising.

Donald Dewar, Labour

Chief Whip, asked the Prime Minister yesterday to scrap the advert. "Surely you will agree that personally abusive adverts of this sort fall below the standards expected of political parties," he wrote.

Yesterday Mr Woods, a former hotel manager, from Hackney, northeast London, said he now regretted taking part in the campaign: "I knew that my eyes were going to be turned red and used in the poster, but they never mentioned anything about Tony Blair. If I had known, I probably wouldn't have done it. Although I think it is a clever piece of advertising, because it got people talking, I think it is far too extreme. I am not surprised there has been a backlash."

"A couple of my friends weren't very pleased with me. I believe in Tony Blair. He comes across as someone who



Blair poster: vilified

is changing Labour for the better. In many ways, it would have been more appropriate if they put the eyes on Major."

Mr Woods, who became a full-time actor only recently, was chosen for his menacing eyes, which are blue. In an hour-long photo session at a

studio in London, the rest of his face was blacked with make-up and he was told to look "as sinister as possible".

He would not reveal his fee, but said: "It might just about cover my phone bill."

The bachelor, who has managed hotels in France, New York and Tokyo, plays a serial killer in a forthcoming television film, *The Light House*. His other work has included playing a pirate in Ken Russell's *Treasure Island* and a security manager in a new film, *Fifth Element*, starring Bruce Willis.

He admitted yesterday to having voted Tory once, "for Mrs Thatcher in 1979", but he insisted he would be voting Labour at the general election.

A spokeswoman for Tory central office said: "Scott Woods knew from the start that he was going to be featured in the Tory party's campaign."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children snatched by pub crawler

Three children who had crept out of their homes to beg for money last Halloween were abducted and taken on a pub crawl, Teesside Crown Court was told yesterday. The children, aged 12, 9 and 6, were pestering customers outside a pub in Stockton-on-Tees when David Cumiskey, 34, abducted them and took them to three more pubs before police found them. Cumiskey, of Barton, North Yorkshire, was jailed for nine months.

Concorde fine

Manchester Airport imposed fines on BA totalling more than £5,000 after Concorde exceeded noise limits on two weekend charter flights. British Airways claimed the "grossly unfair" limits were impossible to meet when the plane was fully loaded.

Man remanded

Duncan Birmingham, 31, of Longsight, Manchester, charged with murdering the 21-year-old graduate Rachel Thacker on August 11, was remanded in custody by Manchester magistrates. There was no application for bail.

Fire blocks sun

A fire at a scrapyard in Temple Cloud, Somerset, destroyed 300 cars, and sent up a pall of smoke that briefly obscured the sun and could be seen from Bristol, ten miles away. It was the second fire at the scrapyard in less than a month. Police suspect arson.

Cocaine charges

Two Filipino sailors were remanded in custody on drug charges after Ireland's biggest find of cocaine. They were crewmen on the Colombian ship *Front Guider*, on which 50kg of cocaine were found when it berthed in Moneyport, Co. Clare, last week.

Thief pulls plug

A thief climbed in through an open window of a house in Luton, Bedfordshire, and unplugged and stole a television set while its elderly owner was watching a programme. The 85-year-old woman, who was not insured, also lost a radio-cassette player.

Brocket duped in charity fraud

By A STAFF REPORTER

WHILE Lord Brocket was busy setting up a £4.5 million classic car fund, he unwittingly aided someone else's deception. As chairman of an anti-drug charity, he signed a cheque that the charity director turned to his own use.

Brocket's own scheme earned him a five-year prison sentence in February and yesterday his colleague paid the penalty for his crime. The former minister in the Seventh Day Adventist Church was jailed for 21 months. Judge Findlay Baker, QC, ruled that Stuart Ware, 58, should also pay £28,000 from the sale of his house, an antique grandfather clock and the surrender of an endowment policy.

The charity Trust for Information and Prevention — Trip — was set up in Hertfordshire in May 1992. St Albans Crown Court was told. Its aim was to advise and educate parents about drug abuse and to set up

helpline telephone numbers. Ware, 58, who used the bogus title of doctor before his name, was not only its director but also earned £27,000 a year as a drugs education officer with Hertfordshire County Council.

Peter Testar, for the prosecution, said Ware stole from the council and the charity. In all he took £41,861 which he used to reduce his debts. Ware, of Studham, Bedfordshire, admitted nine charges of forgery, theft and deception between October 1990 and January 1994. He asked for six other offences to be considered.

He pretended to hold a PhD from New York University, an MA from Michigan and a certificate in social work from Birmingham, but his only qualification was a BA in theology and psychology from a Seventh Day Adventist college at Bracknell, Berkshire.

Meeting of minds celebrates Mensa

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MORE than a thousand members of Mensa, the club for the intellectually overendowed, meet in London today for a week-long celebration of the organisation's 50th birthday.

They will do what tourists usually do — go on trips to museums, St Paul's, the Planetarium, and a pub-crawl — as well as taking part in "golden think-ins" on subjects such as population control, world government, crime and punishment and moral behaviour.

Mensa sees the celebration as a chance to shed its "anorak and egghead" image. Tomorrow evening's lecture by Mark Hutchenreuther, "My Life as an Erotic Artist", offers the chance for even more adventurous thinking, as does a workshop for women on Thursday about dating.

Mensa has 38,000 members in Britain, 110,000 worldwide, who can boast that they are in the top 2 per cent of intelligence, as measured by IQ tests.

The number of applicants is rising, says Dave Chatten, who has been running the society since the departure last year of the long-time executive director, Howard Gale.

Mr Chatten says that Mensa is "a great big social club", a meeting place for people of like ideas. "Some people get self-esteem from belonging to it," he says. "They put in on their CVs."

Neither Mr Chatten nor the psychologists can explain why, for most of Mensa's existence, scores in IQ tests have been rising. "It doesn't affect us because we simply select the top 2 per cent," he says.

He suspects improved nutrition and education lie behind the improvement. But a study by the American Psychological Association, which looked at television as a possible cause, concluded that none of these could explain it.

Shoplifter keeps job as store guard

A MAN arrested after a shoplifting expedition was now working as a supermarket detective, a court was told yesterday.

David Sultana, 24, is highly thought of by the Cardiff supermarket which employs him as a security officer. Kate Smoker, for the defence, told Gloucester Crown Court that, although Sultana had admitted four charges of theft from shops in Gloucester and Cheltenham, he would not be losing his job.

The court was told that Sultana, his brother Louis and a third man, Adrian Knight, all of Cardiff, were stopped by police on the M5 near Gloucester. In the back of their car a case containing three pairs of Next trousers, a coat, a black leather jacket and a suede coat from C&A and items from B&Q were discovered. Recorder Nigel Seed sentenced all three men to 80 hours' community service.

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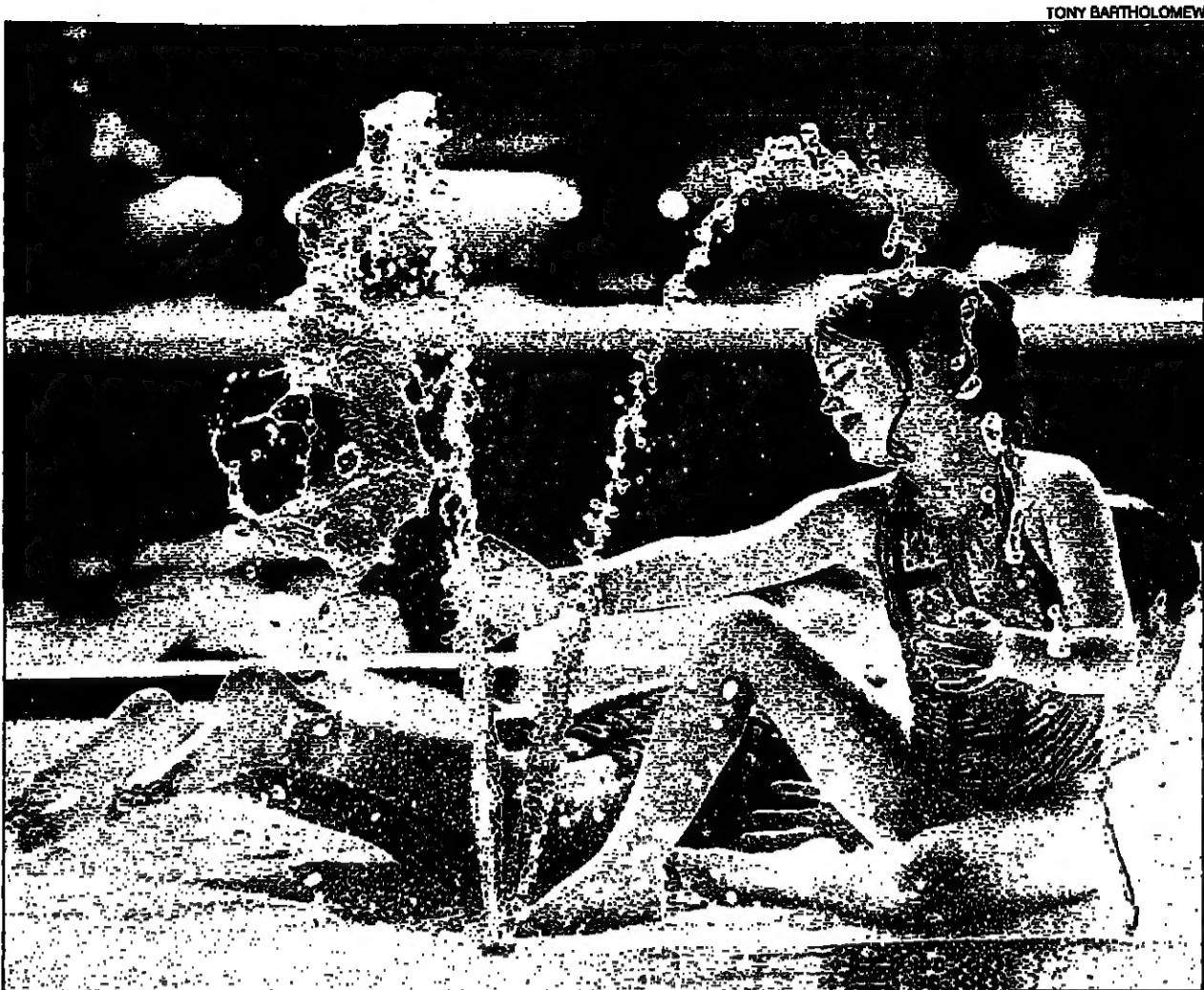
By Nick Nuttall

A DRINKS can that announces when its contents are satisfyingly cool has been developed by British researchers in search of a world market.

After the ring pull and the widget, the latest in can technology has an outer layer of heat-sensitive ink which displays the words "Ready to serve" in friendly letters when the temperature inside is between 5C and 8C.

It took six months to develop at British Steel's Tinsplate works at Port Talbot, South Wales. Grant McBain, a spokesman, said: "This is an intelligent can. With it, you will never have to drink a warm beer from the fridge."

Mr McBain said British Steel was confident that the idea was going to take off at the premium end of the lager and soft-drinks market. "We are expecting people like Coke to come forward. Anyone who has drunk one will tell you there is nothing worse than a warm can of cola."



Children found the perfect antidote to unseasonably high temperatures yesterday at the Atlantis outdoor pool in Scarborough. The bad news is that rain is likely to fall over the Bank Holiday weekend. Forecast, page 22

Satellites will keep watch on secret life of basking shark

By Shirley English

THE mysterious life of the basking shark, the world's second largest fish, is to be studied for the first time in a project launched off the west coast of Scotland yesterday.

Eight scientists are hoping to discover whether the giant creatures, which grow up to 30ft long and weigh four tons, go to sleep on the ocean floor over the winter months. The only bigger fish is the whale shark, a close relative that grows up to 60ft and prefers tropical waters.

Basking sharks, which used to be a common sight off the west of Scotland from June to October, get their name from their habit of basking on the surface with their huge jaws open, harvesting plankton.

Over the next four weeks attempts will be made to attach satellite transmitters to the dorsal fins of four of the fish. The risky manoeuvres, off Arran, in the Firth of Clyde, will be conducted from a small boat, using a pole with



The basking shark feeds on plankton

a barb on one end. Although the sharks do not eat human beings, their size means that a flip of the tail or a sudden dive could capsize the boat.

The number of sightings has fallen dramatically in the past 20 years, with only 16 reports this summer, mainly in the Firth of Clyde. In the 1970s it was possible to see 140 sharks in one day. Their livers, rich in oil, make them a prized prey for fishermen, particularly from Norway. If the tagging is successful, it

will show whether the population is in serious decline.

The £20,000 project has been funded by Scottish Natural Heritage and will be run jointly by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Durham University. David Wilson, the trust's west coast co-ordinator, said: "The life of the basking shark is a complete mystery. No one knows whether they travel the world, or go into a semi-hibernation over the winter. We don't even know if the European population is one species, found nowhere else."

The team will try to attach sensors and satellite transmitters to four sharks. The sensors will measure water pressure, temperature and location as the sharks move around. The information will be sent via satellite to Durham whenever the fish surface in the course of the next year.

Tagging has been attempted before. In the 1970s Aberdeen University managed to attach a transmitter to a basking shark, but it fell off after 17 days.



The rural cat's diet may bring risk to its owner

Dangers lurk in a cuddle with your cat



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

In Edward Jenner's day it was milkmaids who had their faces disfigured by cowpox: now it is cat owners. Cowpox, no longer a common disease, is transmitted by cats to humans six times more than it is spread by human contact with cattle.

At this time of year the basic diet of the ginger and white tom that patrols our cottage garden in Norfolk has changed from young birds to rodents. For free-ranging rural cats, July to October is the high season for hunting rats, mice, voles and young rabbits. Usually cats have it all their own way but occasionally the rat is able to go down fighting and bites its tormentor on the face or forelimbs before being eaten.

If the cat is carrying the virus of cowpox it may, 14 days after the initial wound, develop widespread pustular blisters, which later crust over to cause a generally scabby skin. But the incidence of cowpox in humans is also at its peak at this time of the year as the cats, having caught the virus from the rats they have played with on the lawn, spread it to their owners.

Dr Derrick Baxby, senior lecturer in medical microbiology at Liverpool University, has reviewed the incidence and treatment of cowpox recently in the *Journal of Dermatology in Practice*. Also in the issue, Davies Grant, a veterinary surgeon, discusses the other skin diseases which 7.5 million cats, as well as other pets, can pass on to their keepers each year.

When Edward Jenner started his experiments in 1796 using inoculation with cowpox as a means of protection against smallpox, the sore and persistent scar which was caused by the vaccination was a minor price to pay for immunity to a lethal disease.

Now that smallpox is extinct, the sore of cowpox, which is often transmitted to the pet owner's hands or face, in particular the chin, eyelids or cheeks, is less welcome. Luckily cowpox is not common but as it is so rarely correctly diagnosed it is probably more prevalent than is supposed.

The lesion in cowpox begins as an inflamed spot

which rapidly turns into a purulent, bloody blister with surrounding inflammation. The patient feels ill and may complain of a temperature and sore throat. As the blister heals a hard black scab, technically known as an eschar, forms. The primary sore has usually disappeared within eight to ten weeks but nearly always leaves a permanent scar which may require cosmetic surgery.

Occasionally the cowpox can be generalised and very severe. This is a particular danger if the patient has a weakened immune system or suffers from asthma or eczema. The sore of cowpox can be confused with herpes, but herpetic sores are paler, more shallow and heal more quickly. Unlike herpes, cowpox is not recurrent, and unlike chickenpox there is no sequel of shingles.

While cowpox is rare, cat fleas are common both in cats and dogs: more dogs harbour cat fleas than dog fleas. Humans are usually bitten on the ankles by a cat flea while walking on carpets. The vibration of their foot fall makes the fleas leap, which usually takes them to the point just above ankle-length socks. If the cat sleeps in the owner's bed any part of the anatomy can be bitten.

Cats are also host to two types of mites. Usually the cat's preoccupation with grooming means that they cause little trouble to the animal and their presence is suspected only when the owner starts to scratch.

Not all the diseases transmitted by cats are external. There are many generalised infections which can be spread by them but recent reports have emphasised a number of strains of salmonella, resistant to antibiotics, transmitted by contact with cats.

Preventing contamination of food by cats is of the utmost importance, especially at this time of the year when food poisoning epidemics are reaching their peak. Precautions taken to prevent the spread of bacterial salmonella include not stroking any resident moggie before the cat lover eats or prepares food for others.

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THE TIMES
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Long-lost Rolling Stones film for release

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

A FILM of a Rolling Stones concert, considered to be one of the long-lost emblems of the Sixties, is to have its first public screening in New York 28 years after the group decided that it should not be released.

The Rolling Stones Rock-and-Roll Circus features a host of stars of the 1960s, including a one-off performance by a "supergroup" consisting of John Lennon, Eric Clapton, Keith Richards and Jimi Hendrix's drummer, Mitch Mitchell. Shot at Wembley Stadium in December 1968, the hour-long film was never released because the Stones feared that their own six-song set at the end was overshadowed by The Who's rendition of *A Quick One, While He's Away*.

Decades later, the footage has been retrieved from a vault and edited by Michael Lindsay-Hogg, the producer of the Sixties TV pop show *Ready, Steady, Go*, who was the film's original director. It is to be shown on October 12 and 13 at this year's New York Film Festival. Richard Peña, chairman of the festival's selection committee, describes it as "one of the holy grails of rock film."

The Rolling Stones Rock-and-Roll Circus was filmed just after the group had released *Beggars Banquet*, still considered by many to be their finest album. Mick Jagger asked Mr Lindsay-Hogg to put together an extravagant television special.

On the guest list for the concert were many musicians now considered legendary. The then-unknown Jethro Tull got a slot at the expense of another start-up band, Led



Jagger: his group had blocked public showing

Zeppelin. Also on stage were Taj Mahal and Marianne Faithfull.

Early plans for Stevie Nicks to assemble a "supergroup" for the performance had to be dropped when he fell ill. Lennon and Clapton stepped in to join Richards and Mitchell in playing the Beatles' *Yer Blues*.

Filming was beset by technical difficulties, with the result that the Rolling Stones did not perform until 2am. By then they looked washed out. When they did get on stage, the group gave their last public performance with Brian Jones.

The footage remained in the can until 1989 when Allen Klein, the band's manager at the time, reached an agreement over rights to their unreleased material. Mr Klein will see if reaction next month justifies wider release.



Demonstrators confront police after smashing their way into Parliament House. They chanted "Johnny, we're coming to get you" to show their anger at budget cuts

Protesters storm parliament

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORE than 60 Australian police and demonstrators were injured yesterday when hundreds of trade unionists, students and Aborigines invaded Parliament House in Canberra and looted and destroyed a gift shop.

They were protesting against the first budget of John Howard, the Prime Minister, since the conservative Liberal-National Party coalition won power from Labor in March. Mr Howard was inside the building during the trouble. Forty-nine people were arrested after the rally erupted into violence. Four officers were detained in hospital, including a policewoman who had suspected broken ribs and an officer who had acid thrown in his eyes.

Protesters, many bruised and bleeding, were dragged from the marble lobby by police who formed a 12-deep blockade across the entrance in a vain attempt to hold the front doors closed.

Some of the demonstrators swarmed over the top of the building, the forecourt and grass verges alongside the main entrance. One protester unfurled a banner on the roof.

The demonstrators had packed into a convoy of more than 100 buses, planes and trains to travel to Canberra. Rioters wielded sledgeham-

mers and makeshift battering rams to storm the building, which afterwards resembled a battleground. The floor was littered with debris and splattered with blood.

It took the police, with many officers in riot gear, more than two hours to regain control as demonstrators ran amok shouting: "Johnny, we're coming to get you."

Much of the trouble appeared to have been caused by a breakaway group which left a main rally of nearly 15,000 people.

The official demonstration, organised by the Australian Council of Trade Unions, attracted union members from all over the country who wanted to voice their opposition to \$2 billion-worth of cuts expected to be announced in today's budget.

The budget, which has been widely leaked, includes big reductions in education and aboriginal spending, as well as cuts to labour market programmes. Thousands of government employees will lose their jobs.

Elsewhere in the country, unions shut down ports, coal mines, building sites and manufacturing plants so that workers could take part in the protest. Thousands of workers also joined rallies in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Hobart.



An effigy of John Howard, the Prime Minister, is burnt by the crowd yesterday

In the Northern Territory city of Darwin, about 250 protesters briefly occupied the local Parliament House after a rally.

Last night, Mr Howard condemned the rioting and said that he would not be swayed by violence. "I want to make it very clear to those who are involved in that violence that never under any circumstances will my Government buckle to threats of physical

violence or behaviour of that kind.

"What occurred here today was un-Australian: it was ugly, it endangered the physical wellbeing of men and women in the Australian Federal Police, Parliament House staff and the protective services," he added.

Union leaders tried to distance themselves from the violence, saying that those who stormed the building were

"rent-a-crowd activists". However, Cheryl Kernot, the leader of the centrist Australian Democrats, blamed the Government's funding cuts for the security breach. "This is one of the ironies — this Government has cut back on security, on the number of attendants in this place," she said. "It is the Government's fault if they are now at risk."

Leading article, page 15

Howard avoids Princess

BY ROGER MAYNARD

JOHN HOWARD, Australia's monarchist Prime Minister, has pulled out of a charity ball after discovering that the Princess of Wales had also accepted an invitation.

Government sources said Mr Howard believed there could not be two guests of honour at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute's ball in October. He viewed the issuing of the two invitations as a serious bungle by the organisers.

Mr Howard learnt of the Princess's attendance when he was asked to approve her visit to Australia. Earlier reports suggesting that he withdrew because he did not want to offend the Queen have been discounted.

The Prime Minister refused to comment, but an aide said he dropped out because he was "not too happy" about the double booking. "He was upset about being gazumped by Diana."

Mr Howard is a committed monarchist and has opposed Australia's move towards republicanism, although he toned down his stance before this year's general election. The Princess of Wales is to officiate at the \$500-a-plate fund-raising dinner in Sydney on October 31.

Guns may end siege at Seoul campus

BY NICHOLAS LONG
IN SEOUL AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE South Korean Government issued a fresh warning to the more than 1,000 students still barricaded inside Seoul's Yonsei University buildings yesterday, ordering them to surrender or face punishment.

The country's police chief said that police could use firearms to break up violent student protests, although he did not refer specifically to the campus siege. Police helicopters continued to circle the university buildings spraying teargas, while the demonstrators retaliated with occasional stone throwing and bursts of patriotic music over loudspeakers. Several thousand police were still sealing off the campus last night.

The weary students, without food for two days, were denied visits from parents, but police allowed nurses in to treat the injured. More than 1,000 students and police were reported injured during the past week of clashes at the university, which began when police tried to disperse a rally in support of unity with North Korea which the Government had outlawed because the sponsors — the Federation of Student Councils — supports North Korean policies.

"We know [the federation] has links with the North," said one student at the barricade, who added he had never been to North Korea. "Our Government should allow us to go there so that we can form an opinion. We have many problems with education, culture and the army, but our biggest problem is that the country is divided."

The federation favours a process of reunification in which the US Army would first withdraw and the South then sign peace with the North on equal terms. Not surprisingly this formula finds favour with North Korea but not with Seoul. Even before this year's unification rally, the scale of violence at student demonstrations was far worse than last year. Police said that in the six months to June the country had 143 protests in which firebombs were used, up from 21 in the corresponding period last year.

Clinton uses fiftieth birthday to defend wife against attacks

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON used his 50th birthday yesterday to leap to the defence of his wife after new Republican attacks. The latest rebuke by Mr Clinton came as a federal judge in Arkansas ordered that sentencing be postponed until November in the case of James McDougal, the Clintons' Whitewater partner.

Responding in a television interview to Republican allegations about White House ethical misconduct, Mr Clinton accused his opponents of practising "the politics of destruction". He promised that next week's Democratic convention in Chicago would be free of personal attacks.

The President, interviewed in the Oval Office by Dan Rather of CBS News, said he did not believe the Republicans could damage his own character, then launched a scathing defence of the First Lady, most recently accused of covering up her role in the 1993 firing of White House travel office staff.

In a reference to comments by George Bush, the former President, that his own wife had "upheld the honour of the White House, and she did it with class, and style, and caring and love", Mr Clinton

said: "Well, I believe that everyone who knows my wife believes she has class, style, caring and love."

Although a "controversial character", the First Lady had never been the subject of any such criticism before "she became my partner on this great endeavour. If you asked me what I was most grateful for at the age of 50, it would not be being President. I would be grateful for the years I've had with Hillary and the years I've had with Chelsea."

After a star-studded birthday celebration at Radio City Music Hall in New York on Sunday night, raising more than \$10 million (\$6.4 million) for the Democratic Party, Mr Clinton flew yesterday to Tennessee to rededicate a burnt-down black church.

In a further sign of how the White House hopes to win the critical women's vote in November, Tipper Gore, the Vice-President's wife, and Mrs Clinton will have prominent speaking roles in Chicago, together with Sarah Brady, the foremost proponent of handgun control. Alma Brown, whose husband, Ron, the Commerce Secretary, was killed in a Croatia plane crash, will be chairman.

Perot gets federal funding

BY TOM RHODES

ROSS PEROT, the billionaire Texas businessman who again threatens to divide the Republican vote, surprised supporters yesterday by announcing that he would accept federal funding in his latest bid for the White House.

The man who captured 19 per cent of the vote as an independent in 1992 was officially named presidential candidate for the Reform Party on Sunday. He financed his own campaign four years ago, spending \$60 million (£38 million) from his vast fortune.

The Texan is eligible to accept \$29.2 million in federal funds, limiting his own spending to \$50,000. He is entitled to raise a further \$32 million in contributions to reach the \$62 million that Mr Clinton and Mr Dole will receive in matching funds.

Senator John McCain, a leading light in the Dole campaign, said: "Eighty to ninety per cent of his votes will come from Republican ranks. It hurts us."

Los Angeles: Ralph Nader, the pioneering consumer rights activist, formally accepted the Green Party's presidential nomination yesterday. His candidature could erode support for President Clinton in California.

Snakes rescued in Indian police swoop



A charmer holds a poisonous snake near his mouth. Yesterday police arrested two dozen snake handlers

Delhi: Tipped off by animal rights activists, Indian authorities arrested two dozen snake charmers before the start of a Hindu festival celebrating serpents, the United News of India news agency said yesterday.

The agency said wildlife officials swooped on the charmers and seized nearly 100 snakes as they were preparing for the Nag Panchami festival in the central city of Nagpur.

The charmers were charged by police under the Wildlife Protection Act and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the agency added. The police were tipped off by a local section of the Society for

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Hindus regard snakes as symbols of divinity and do not feed them after they are captured but offer them milk, which herpetologists claim they do not drink.

Often, the snake charmer repeatedly dunks the reptile's head in a pail of milk, drowning it, a practice which wildlife wardens are trying to stamp out.

The festival of Nag Panchami attracts snake charmers from different parts of India and gives them a chance to display their snake-catching and handling abilities without removing a snake's poison. (Reuters/AP)

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Hard Left threatens Prodi with autumn of discontent over state sell-offs



Prodi: new row makes him look vulnerable

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

AS ITALIANS begin the long trek home this week after the mid-August Ferragosto break, the Hard Left has threatened to bring down the Government over public sector wage claims, reform of the welfare state and the planned privatisation of the telecommunications and energy sectors.

Fausto Bertinotti, leader of Rifondazione Comunista, on whose 35 Hard Left MPs Romano Prodi depends in parliament, said that the Government had only "a 50 per cent chance" of surviving an "autumn of discontent". Any attempt to

bypass the Hard Left over privatisation of the state-run telecommunications company Stet would cause an immediate crisis, he said.

The centre-left Prodi Government took office in May vowing to end the cycle of Italian "revolving-door governments" and to serve a full five years. But it is suddenly looking vulnerable. Not only has the ambiguity of its parliamentary dependence on the Hard Left been exposed, it also faces a challenge from the separatist Northern League, whose fiery and unpredictable leader, Umberto Bossi, has promised to hold a march along the valley of the Po next month to define the borders of the new state

of "Padania". Signor's Bossi language has become increasingly militant, not to say bizarre, leading his disenchanted deputy, Irene Pivetti — the former Speaker — to accuse him of becoming "mentally unbalanced".

She favours autonomy but not separation, she said. But yesterday Signor Bossi insisted that the setting up of a north Italian state would begin with a tax revolt against Rome by his followers. He also threatened to burn down the transmitters of RAI, the state broadcasting company, seen as a symbol of national unity.

Signor Bertinotti said in an interview with *Corriere della Sera*

that the Hard Left understood the importance of helping Professor Prodi to stop the North seceding. But Rifondazione had been dismayed by hints at the weekend from Walter Veltroni, the young ex-Communist Deputy Prime Minister, that the Government might do a deal with the centre-right opposition to push privatisation legislation through. "I wonder if Walter understands the seriousness of what he is saying," Signor Bertinotti said. "If the coalition changes, that will be the end of the Prodi Government".

The "Olive Tree" coalition, composed of both centrists and former Communists in the Party of the

Democratic Left, has until now enjoyed the traditional 100-day honeymoon, with Rifondazione Comunista soft pedalling its demands. But the new row strikes at the heart of Professor Prodi's efforts to bring Italy's economy more closely into line with the Maastricht criteria for a single currency by reducing the budget deficit through public spending cuts, lowering inflation to 3 per cent and privatising the telecommunications and energy sectors.

Italy is desperate to qualify for monetary union by 1999 and Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the former Prime Minister and central banker who holds the combined Treasury and

Budget portfolio as an economic "overlord", said his priority was to bring the lira back into the European monetary system as soon as possible.

Professor Prodi said that the EU had to be flexible in applying single currency criteria, adding: "The evaluation is still done by human beings, thank God, not by computers." On the other hand, belt tightening, coupled with high unemployment (12 per cent, much of it in the Mezzogiorno) and a slowdown in exports because of a stronger lira, could bring industrial discontent of the kind that France and Germany are experiencing, but which Italy has so far avoided.

French celebrities support Africans' Paris church sit-in

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HUNDREDS of protesters, including media celebrities, clerics and politicians, set up a human shield yesterday around a Paris church where ten African immigrants began the 46th day of a hunger strike under the threat of imminent expulsion.

The Government has rejected the group's demands for residence papers and as rumours that the police were about to eject the Africans by force spread through Paris over the weekend, hundreds of supporters flocked to the Saint Bernard Church in the heavily immigrant Goutte d'Or district.

The hunger-strikers, mostly Malian men in their 20s and early 30s, are part of group of 300 immigrant Africans who have occupied the church since June 28. Many of the protesters have lived in France for years, according to their supporters, but now face expulsion under tough immigration laws passed in 1993. At the weekend one of the African protesters gave birth, the sixth in the group since the occupation began.

Their demonstration has become the summer's left-wing

cause célèbre and many veterans from the 1968 student demonstrations were mingling yesterday with younger protesters in the crowd waiting outside the church for the expected eviction. Posters have been displayed throughout the area calling on local residents to join the human shield if the church bells sound a warning that riot police are on the way.

Emanuelle Béart, the actress, has spent three nights sleeping alongside the hunger strikers in the church and being photographed outside. "I am ashamed of my country," she said. Léon Schwarzenberg, a renowned cancer expert, chained himself to one of the hunger strikers on Sunday when the alarm was falsely raised. Danielle Mitterrand, the widow of the former President, has voiced her support for the group and on Sunday Jacques Attali, François Mitterrand's former adviser, also joined the demonstrators.

Several other notables, including Jacques Derrida, the philosopher, have offered to house the immigrants, while Jacques Gaillot, the outspoken former Bishop of Evreux

ousted by the Vatican for his liberal views, broke off a retreat in a Trappist monastery to back the hunger-strikers, some of whom are dangerously weak, according to volunteer doctors.

Unions at Air France, the state-owned airline, called on pilots and the company chairman not to fly the Africans out of the country if they were expelled.

The demonstration has quickly established its own ritual, with copious coffee, regular bulletins from Abubakar Diop, the protesters' spokesman, and chants of "Français! Immigrés! Solidarité!" (French people! Immigrants! Solidarity!).

The hunger-strikers have called on President Chirac to intervene and the Socialist Party said the Government should reopen negotiations. But last week the Government insisted that it would no longer tolerate the protest and Eric Raoult, the Minister for Integration, said: "The law must be applied".

Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, and Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, said that relaxing the laws for the Saint Bernard hunger-strikers would unleash a fresh flood of illegal immigration.

The stakes are high because beyond these few hundred people are thousands of other illegal immigrants. M Juppé said, while M Debré said that "yielding to blackmail would be a cowardly and tragic decision".

There are estimated to be more than a million illegal immigrants in France, as well as about four million legal foreign residents.

The protest has evolved into a test case of the Government's determination to crack down on illegal immigration, but with the far-Right National Front demanding swift and stringent action and the Left calling for leniency, the Government faces an acute public relations dilemma.



An immigrant and her child yesterday at the church in Paris where six babies have been born during the sit-in

Spain besieged by wave of illegal immigrants

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SPAIN, only 12 miles from impoverished Morocco at the Strait of Gibraltar's narrowest stretch, is reeling from an unprecedented wave of North African "wetbacks".

The term, first coined for Mexicans who crossed illegally into Texas by traversing the Rio Grande, is now used to describe Moroccan who attempt to cross the strait to Spain in flimsy plywood boats. Yesterday the Spanish coast guard detained 46 illegal North African immigrants, including one heavily pregnant woman, near the port of Algeciras, bringing the total apprehended along Spain's southern coast in the past week to more than 300.

Interior Ministry sources reveal that nearly 2,000 North Africans have been detained while trying to cross the strait since January, two-thirds of them since June. Overwhelmed, the maritime service of the Spanish Civil Guard has appealed to Madrid for help. "We simply cannot cope with the inadequate resources we have at present," a patrol boat captain

said yesterday. Speaking at the weekend, after more than a hundred Moroccans had been detained off the port of Tarifa, Isaias Pérez, councillor for Social Affairs in the regional government, said: "Andalusia cannot be the sole watchdog against illegal immigration into Europe from

Andalusia cannot be the sole watchdog against illegal immigration in Europe

the Maghreb. We cannot, only with defensive measures, be the guardians of the West. This wave of immigrants will not stop until the EU takes steps to improve the economic situation in the countries from which they come."

Spanish authorities blame immigration gangs in Morocco

co for the recent surge in attempted crossings, accusing them of "twisting facts to swindle desperate people".

Madrid has announced that this Friday will be the cut-off date for foreigners already in the country with limited work permits to apply for residence permits. Those running illegal immigration rackets across the strait have distorted the details, telling would-be immigrants that anyone living in Spain before the cut-off date — irrespective of the length of their stay — would be entitled to residence rights.

Some Moroccans paid up to €650 to gangs in Tangier for their clandestine night-time crossing, a sum which is a third of the country's annual per capita income. For the majority it is money ill-spent: nine out of every ten people attempting the crossing are detained and repatriated to Morocco. Several others perish at sea.

Officially, only 65,000 Moroccans live in Spain, although an equal number are believed to be working in the country illegally.

Coup plot date just slips by

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL
IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW marked the fifth anniversary of the failed coup that triggered the collapse of the Soviet Union with apathy and indifference yesterday.

Just 25 "White House defenders", from among those who stood for three days at barricades facing the tanks of the coup plotters, gathered in pleasant sunshine for a photo session outside the former parliament building that was the hub of resistance to the attempted coup. One man played an accordion, another brandished a huge white-blue-and-red Russian tricolour.

"I'm happy that five years have passed and what we achieved has stayed in place," said Nikolai Rogozin, a pensioner. The presidential elections proved that the Communists could not turn the clock back.

No state money has been allocated to organisers of a series of small demonstrations and concerts to mark the anniversary. It is a stark contrast to the grand celebrations that marked the collapse of the coup in August 1991. President Yeltsin, who memorably climbed on to a tank to denounce the putsch, made no public comment yesterday and was said to be "working on documents" in his country residence outside Moscow.

The President's new press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, denied reports in *Time* magazine that Mr Yeltsin is going to have a heart operation abroad and said he was having a "routine medical inspection" before going on holiday.

Magnificent seven airmen return to hero's welcome

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

SEVEN Russian airmen returned home to a hero's welcome in their native Tatarstan yesterday after their daring weekend escape from their Muslim captors in Afghanistan.

The nation, badly in need of good news after the conflict in Chechnya and President Yeltsin's deteriorating health, was gripped by the men's dramatic return.

"There is no greater happiness than being home," said Captain Vladimir Sharpatov, the pilot of the Ilyushin-76 that was intercepted more than a year ago by the rebel Taliban forces in Afghanistan. They were held hostage in the

southern city of Kandahar. Kazimur Khairullin, the copilot, captured the mood of the nation when he said: "The Taliban wanted to humiliate Russia by capturing and holding us. But they failed."

Minister Shamiyev, the President of Tatarstan, an autonomous republic in Russia, hosted a welcome-home party attended by relations and well-wishers and thanked the men for their "heroic deed, endurance and the character they showed". The crew will be guests of honour next week at the Kremlin when President Yeltsin is due to present bravery medals.

The Russians, who were

flying munitions from Albania to the Afghan Government in Kabul when their cargo plane was intercepted by Taliban jets 12 months ago, made their escape on Friday. Under the pretence of servicing the aircraft, they started the engines, taking off seconds before cars tried to block the runway.

The aircraft flew at treetop level before reaching the safety of Iranian air space. It touched down at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

"I can still see the two cars trying to block the runway," Captain Sharpatov said. "When we landed in Sharjah, my hands were shaking. But we did it! We did it!"



Captain Vladimir Sharpatov, far right, who masterminded the dramatic escape from the Taliban in Afghanistan, with his crew on their return to Moscow

Serbian arms are destroyed

FROM STACY SULLIVAN
IN SARAJEVO

THE Nato peace force in Bosnia yesterday began blowing up a 300-tonne cache of Bosnian Serb munitions as part of "Operation Volcano" despite threats that Nato soldiers would be attacked.

By mid-afternoon about 30 tonnes of explosives, mostly mines, had been destroyed in a site 3ft below ground. It is expected that the whole task will take nearly all week.

Nearly 2,000 Nato troops clogged the road leading to the site, in the village of Margerit about 20 miles east of Sarajevo, to provide protection. Nato helicopters hovered overhead to keep bystanders clear.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the British commander of Nato ground troops in Bosnia, decided to destroy the cache after a routine patrol found it in a school two weeks ago. Under the Dayton Peace Accord all weapons and ammunition storage areas were to have been declared and submitted for Nato inspection months ago.

At the weekend a Bosnian Serb television broadcast announced: "This open threat of using force by the [Nato] command ... represents a dangerous provocation." At the same time, threatening leaflets in English were distributed to Nato troops near the sites. Nato soldiers were put on high alert.

Belgrade: A Malta-bound Russian Ilyushin-76 transport plane crashed yesterday near Belgrade airport in Yugoslavia, killing all 12 people on board, after turning back and attempting an emergency landing. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 15

Goose cull grounded by flares

Christchurch: A planned mid-air mass killing of thousands of Canada geese in New Zealand had to be called off yesterday when protesters began firing flares. A local conservation group was going to use shooters in helicopters to kill 3,500 geese at Ellesmere, south of here, in an

attempt to control their population. But Brian Webb, the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council manager, said protesters began using flares.

He said only 300 geese had been killed when the protesters fired flares from boats and became a safety risk. The culling was then called off. He

said there would be no more shooting until next year.

Last year's cull of 3,000 birds on the lake was described as barbaric by local protesters. The council wanted the Canada geese cull to meet a statutory obligation to reduce the population to 6,500 by 1998. (AFP)

Harpoons land runaway drivers

Helsinki: Police in Finland plan to start using a harpoon-like device to catch runaway drivers, according to Finnish television, which showed a patrol car with a harpoon gun fixed on its front bumper being demonstrated in the northern city of Oulu. Chasing a runaway vehicle, the patrol

car draws near and the tubular steel harpoon pierces the boot of the fleeing car.

Hydraulically operated harpoons are released, keeping the harpoon in place. The runaway driver is then forced to stop as the patrol car brakes. A radio transmitter in the harpoon allows police to

keep track of the vehicle should the shaft break. The device also gives police the option to spray teargas from the patrol car into the runaway vehicle if an armed driver tries to lock himself inside. Senior police and government experts are to see the device being tested. (Reuters)

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BY JOANNA PITTMAN

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person playing a stringed instrument, possibly a guitar or mandolin, in a dimly lit setting. The person is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, textured garment. Their hands are positioned on the instrument's body and neck. The background is dark and indistinct, with some light reflecting off surfaces. The overall aesthetic is grainy and dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights.

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a patterned kimono. She is looking slightly to the right. The image is framed by a thick black border.

By MICHAEL THEODOROU



Meanwhile, Gifu's municipal government has said it will pay a total of 42 million yen (about £250,000) to the 436 victims who came into contact with the bacteria through school lunches. Most of the food-poisoning cases have been concentrated in Sakai, a port city south of Osaka, where thousands of schoolchildren have been struck down since mid-July. Sakai's municipal government is also considering compensating victims. (AFP)

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You're only as ugly as you feel

Why do perfectly normal people believe they are the spitting image of the Elephant Man? Joe Joseph investigates the disturbing modern syndrome of 'imagined ugliness'

In more carefree days, even good-looking men or women could visit their physician and say, "Doc, what's the quickest way to get rid of 10lb of ugly fat?" and he could reply, "Why not just chop your head off?" and then they'd guffaw helplessly all the way back to their copy of the *Les Dawson* jokebook.

Nowadays, many men and women who suffer from something called "imagined ugliness" might actually go searching for a guillotine.

You didn't believe such a thing could exist, but then you didn't believe *Nasa* would find a way to wangle more funds for space research, especially after seeing those expensive but indecipherable pictures from the Hubble telescope.

We have all come across examples of delusory "imagined handsomeness syndrome" (the witch in *Snow White*, Demi Moore, Robert Kilroy-Silk) and even "imagined funniness syndrome" (Bob Monkhouse, Fergie, MPs), but imagined ugliness is, to most of us, a novel concept.

We are not talking about people who daydream about looking like Catherine Deneuve and then get on with their grocery shopping. We're talking about people to whom "Why was he born so beautiful, why was he born so beautiful?" is not an ironic rugby song refrain but an existential dilemma.

Where did this dramatic new anxiety spring from?

A survey just published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists tells us that thousands of people are sufferers of "imagined ugliness". Men have faces, but women are their faces, Susan Sontag once said, which may be why most

sufferers seem to be women. The number is swelling as advertisements and magazines offer computer-enhanced stereotypes that you could compete with only if you were Emmanuelle Béart or a narcissist with a fancier imagination than Walter Mitty.

Victims of the disorder become obsessed with teeny, often imagined defects: faint wrinkles, a large nose, or a small bald patch—nothing is too minor to be magnified in the victim's mind into a major physical curse. The effects can be so serious that the sufferer becomes depressed, or even suicidal.

The most famous sufferer of imagined ugliness, according to David Veale, consultant psychiatrist at London's Royal Free Hospital, is probably Michael Jackson, the chalky pop star, who seems to be metamorphosing into Diana Ross.

Michael Jackson seems to be a clear case," Dr Veale told a conference of psychiatrists in London recently. "He has had more than 30 cosmetic surgery operations, his nose is reported to be crumbling, and his ex-wife Lisa Presley has said that he would never take off his make-up, even in bed."

Now Dr Veale has begun wondering if imagined ugliness syndrome might be endemic in the skin-deep world of showbusiness, where stars seem continually to be changing their appearances with cosmetic surgery.

Cher is famous for cutting slices out of her body as frequently as the rest of us cut slices out of our birthday cakes. And Pamela Anderson is one of many Californian blondes who are so worried about drowning in the Pacific that they have had a pair of personal



My, but how you've changed! In the 13 years since the picture on the left was taken, Michael Jackson has reportedly had 30 cosmetic surgery operations

floatation tanks implanted into their breasts.

Now, even if you happen to believe that we should think twice about how we present ourselves to the world, are you sure that the right people are doing the worrying? And are they worrying about the right things?

Our anxieties have turned topsy-turvy. How topsy-turvy? A survey in America found that more women are scared of getting fat than of getting cancer. It is said that grown human beings, who have enough intelligence to make their own breakfast, would rather get cancer than look a tad too plump for their bikini. It is even sadder that imagined ugliness is measured solely on physical attributes: the way people look

often plays only a small part in how we gauge their ugliness. Their habits and possessions can be more pivotal.

Someone in Harold Pinter's play *Party Time* asks: "Is it silly to say I feel proud? I mean to be part of the society of beautifully dressed people. God, I don't know—elegance, style, grace, taste. Don't these words, these concepts, mean anything any more? I'm not alone, am I, in thinking them incredibly important?" No, darling, you're not alone. It's not quite the message Pinter was trying to get across, but these things often are incredibly important.

Think of it as style over substance. Just look at how Diana Vreeland, the former Editor of *American Vogue*, was lauded as

the epitome of style and also managed to turn her gnomish pronouncements ("pink is the navy blue of India") into the fashion world's Ten Commandments—even though her face bore more resemblance to Arthur Askey's than to Marilyn Monroe's. The Duchess of Windsor was thought a style guru even though you could have dug a trench with her chin.

We and the sufferers of "imagined ugliness syndrome" clearly measure attractiveness with different slide-rules. As far as we're concerned, a Roman nose can be quite a thing. A bad-hair day can be fixed with a decent shampoo, or a roomy hat. Quasimodo was just another lovestruck romantic underneath that hideously swollen back. Listen, Venus de Milo hasn't

even got any arms, for Pete's sake. At least the sufferers of imagined ugliness have Dr Veale working on their case. Who is committed to curing all the other victims of self-delusion?

The people we feel increasingly sorry for are the ones in Lamborghinis who assume that passers-by are mouthing the word "Wow!", when what we're actually mouthing is "Wally!" Lamborghini drivers are afflicted with "imagined stylishness" syndrome.

The people who attract our derision are not the ones who stare into every mirror in search of fresh blemishes, but the mirror-obsessed "imagined attractiveness" sufferers who feel a warm glow

inside each time they glimpse their own reflection: who are rich enough to afford *Armari*, but not smart enough to realise they've been sold the wrong size; who enter Miss World competitions not because they want the world to realise they're egocentric 19-year-olds who like to go swimming in stilettos, but because they want the world to realise they're really Mother Teresa; people who hear Carly Simon singing, "You're so vain, you probably think this song is about you", and so. Even though they're never met her. These people are in just as much need of a kindly doctor's help. Sufferers of "imaginary attractiveness syndrome", we salute you! Provided, that is, you haven't already saluted yourself.

Why would anyone want to tell all to Anthony Clare? Grace Bradberry finds out

In the chair and off guard

BOOPE FEATURES



Agony aunt Claire Rayner broke down in tears on the show

of long-term psychotherapy and who does not believe in "offloading", while many of his guests take a similar view.

"I have never been involved with any form of therapy and I don't believe in introspection," says Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the Arctic explorer. Martin Bell, the BBC war reporter whose prickly performance was a star turn of the current series, is just as blunt: "I have a strong feeling that people should sort themselves out. If you become too dependent on this kind of quackery, and someone took the crutch away you'd walk with a limp for the rest of your life." Even Claire Rayner, best known as an agony aunt, is dismissive. "I don't need purging. I'm not a Diana. High-class irrigation is not my bag."

Nevertheless, since 1982, more than 100 people have entered the basement studio at Broadcasting House, having received a letter from the producer, Michael Ember. They don't all accept for the same reason. "There's a huge element of flattery to being asked," says Claire Rayner. "It's a Radio 4 flagship programme." But as she ruefully admits, she became "the flag on the flagpole" when she broke down in tears describing the emotional abuse she suffered from her parents as a child.

Alice Thomas Ellis, Nicholas Mosley and Martin Bell all had books to promote, while Carla Lane was promised that she would be able to "get her message over" about live exports. Even so, she had reservations. "I'd only heard the programme once before, but all you could hear was I, I, I. It seemed really self-indulgent. So initially I was going to refuse, but my sister told me that it was fabulous and I must go on."

Potential interviewees are offered a choice of three dates, and most of the programmes are recorded in the evening. "It was the most uneventful night," says Ms Lane. "Anthony Clare was half an hour late. Then I was shown into a small, dull grey room with fluorescent light that had been subdued. We sat in this ordinary office with a table so ordinary that I can't remember it well enough to give a description."

Very little socialising takes place. Martin Bell chatted to Professor Clare for ten minutes before the programme and ten minutes afterwards. The only hint at informality

was a bottle of chilled white wine placed in the middle of the table. Bell, determined to remain on his guard, did not partake. As Nicholas Mosley remarks: "It was all rather quick and professional."

In part, this may be intended to mirror the experience of visiting a psychiatrist. (Though Clare has gradually abandoned any pretence of psychiatric impersonality during the interviews.) More likely it is simply a reflection of his and his guests' busy schedules.

But however dull the room, or great the guest's scepticism, there is no doubt that Clare elicits genuine revelations. If he fails, it is usually because the guests are particularly well equipped to stonewall. "There were no revelations. I

back foot from the start. "I'm rather proud of my relationship with my children, and he was very kind in not going on too much about my marriages, of which I've had two. I didn't want to talk about my second marriage. It wasn't a happy time and I'm not very proud of it."

But in some cases Clare does ask awkward questions. And sometimes the defences do come down, without him seeming to provoke this. Carla Lane was one of those who opened up unintentionally. "Because the lighting was subdued and because he's so quiet I found myself telling him things which I never really intended to tell."

She was talking about her mother's recent death, when she wandered on to the subject of her father, who had died at 52 of a heart attack. Ms Lane had been present and her father had asked her not to call an ambulance. "Then I found myself telling the part of the story I hadn't intended to, which was that I felt I had to, and had gone down to a phone box at the end of our road. When I came back my father must have guessed, and said, 'I'll never forgive you'. Then he died. For years I went round worrying about it but I'd never spoken about it. Not even to my family. Afterwards I felt cleansed."

Professor Clare said very little to me. I thought he'd ask question after question but he just pressed little buttons here and there."

Bell describes it as: "Similar to the kind of ordeal I had expected. He'd done his homework and he wasn't sitting with a list of questions. Whatever you said he was likely to take you up on it."

But perhaps Clare's greatest achievement is to make his interviewees like him even as he asks intrusive questions. Even Claire Rayner, who begged Anthony Clare to drop her interview, now concedes that it did her reputation no harm. That she feels no acrimony is largely because she did not feel tricked: "I'm a broadcaster. I was aware this wasn't private. It was a programme and I did it." She did contemplate walking out, "but I was in such a tizz I couldn't have made it out of the studio."

The only element of trickery is perhaps that guests trust and respect Clare as a professional psychiatrist and allow him to ask personal questions on that basis, even though

half and two hours, and are then edited down to 30 minutes. No one seems to have found producer Michael Ember's decisions unfair.

Few of his guests, however, seem prepared to admit that they learnt anything from the experience — and perhaps they didn't — but there was a consensus that Clare had got the measure of them.

Even Bell concedes: "Listening to little bits of the tape I thought I could have been more forthcoming. When he was getting somewhere I should have said, 'Oh yes, that's right'."

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How Jane found true love in the desert with an Arab sheikh

Concluding our two-part story of the life and loves of a Victorian beauty who scandalised her age

AFTER her divorce from Lord Ellenborough, and abandoned by Prince Felix, Jane Ellenborough had many affairs, including one with a German king. She married twice more but neither husbands nor lovers could make her happy. After her last lover was unfaithful to Jane with her own maid, Jane sailed for Syria, vowing to renounce all men henceforth....

BY NOW, Jane was almost 50, still beautiful and speaking nine languages. Near Damascus, she met the man hired to escort her to Palmyra, the ruined city 200 miles into the desert, to which only the Mezzabi tribe had passage rights. He was Sheikh Medjuel el Mazrab, a striking figure dressed in the flowing scarlet cloak and gold insignia of a desert prince. He was a cultured man in his late twenties, roughly the age that, had he lived, Jane's son by Lord Ellenborough would have been. He spoke several languages, and unusually for a Bedu, he could read and write Arabic.

Because of the physical demands and dangers of the journey, few Europeans had ever visited Palmyra, and the British consul tried to put a stop to Jane's dangerous resolution of riding alone into the desert with an Arab escort.

Nevertheless, she set out in early June 1853, dressed as an Arab on what she would ever after call the "greatest adventure" of all my journeys. Medjuel wore his usual clothes - scarlet cloak over striped shirt, a bright silk keffiyeh on his head. Around his waist he had wound and knotted several coloured scarves and into this wide sash had thrust a number of knives and pistols. Around his neck was a silken cord upon which hung a sword, and on his feet were red leather boots with upturned toes. On his wrist he carried a hooded hawk. This final touch was not showmanship; the bird would be used to catch small birds and game as fresh food on the journey, as would his saluki hunting dogs.

Two years and many adventures later, having agreed that they would spend half the year in the tents of his tribe in the desert and the other half in Damascus, Jane and Medjuel were married. Despite the age difference, Jane knew that Medjuel was the love of her life. He was an ardent man and their first physical union was "more like a real wedding night than any since Lord Ellenborough".

Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th, Friday April 1st, Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd, Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th
All days d'or and de joie, passed in delightful intercourse with this sim-

HIDDEN HISTORY

ple, upright and affectionate character. May I not be deceived (as usual)?...

Thursday April 14th Today... my dream has begun its accomplishment. I leave Damascus for the loved desert with my adored, and adoring, Medjuel. His "slave". Oh that I had 20 years less to excuse this last folly.

Their honeymoon, in the spring of 1855, was the happiest period in Jane's life. She was travelling in the

tribe. It was unheard of for a Bedu to marry outside the tribal system, but Jane became used to "the utter astonishment of other Bedu" at this European wife. Was she the daughter of a bondswoman, they wondered. Perhaps the whiteness of her skin was due to leprosy? The tenderness of her feet was remarked by "soft glucking noises of pity", and necessitated her wearing kid slippers when all other women went barefoot.

Jane recognized that her European aristocratic background meant nothing to the Bedu. They did not regard her as *asit* (noble) for they believed only the Bedu to be of pure blood. They were a lean, hard, proud people who were not prepared to take an outsider at face value, despite her dowry of a flock of sheep and herd of camels. She had Medjuel's protection, but it took time to win their respect and approval.

Though they appeared content, Jane considered the lives of Bedu women desperately hard, their lot one of unequal concubinage and weary servitude.

It was not easy for her in those early days of her marriage. Until she acquired the Beduin pailots, she felt isolated, especially among the women. She learnt how to milk a camel and carry the bowl of warm frothy liquid to Medjuel; and to make *leben*, a cheese, from soured camel

milk. The woman who throughout her life had been served by hundreds of retainers (even in Damascus her staff were numbered in dozens) had to be taught how to keep the fire alight with faggots and roots gathered from the desert, or with dried camel droppings. She revelled in her new knowledge, performing her tasks with increasing expertise as an offering of affection to Medjuel.

She became the matriarch of the tribe. She rode into battle at Medjuel's side, was midwife, vet, diplomat, judge and financier to "her" tribe. She even represented them at gatherings of chieftains. Her wisdom and generous financial support enabled the Mezzabi to become a powerful voice in the desert.

She died in Damascus aged 74. Her beloved Medjuel, leading her favourite horse, headed a Bedu guard of honour at her funeral. He never remarried. During Jane's lifetime, eight novels, including one by her friend Balzac, were based on her extraordinary life. Her house and grave in Damascus are still extant; her diaries are in the hands of her family in Dorset.

● Extract from *A Scandalous Life: The Biography of Jane Digby by Mary S. Lovell*, published in paperback by Fourth Estate, £8.99. Copyright Mary S. Lovell 1995.



Jane Digby in Arab dress and her sheikh

desert, not as a tourist but as the wife of a desert prince. All the adventure and romance she had ever craved was now fulfilled, and Medjuel offered her all the tenderness she had ever sought.

THEY arrived at Palmyra one sunset and camped "in a nice place out of the town amongst gardens with a tepid spring under a cluster of palm trees, of which I profited at night to bathe by a splendid moonlight". It was a sensual pleasure to wash the sand from her hair and body, and she was inordinately proud that she had kept her youthful figure and agility as Medjuel sat and watched her while she bathed. Later, when she thanked him for the happiness he had brought her as he promised, "he replied in the kindest and simplest manner, 'Badein [Later], you shall see if I do not keep my word in all things'."

We removed the tents into a little garden of palms and olives. And ever, ever, shall I remember the happy fortnight I passed there. It may have been for in the all-encompassing happiness of the honeymoon I have forgotten time and date!

The journey to the tents of Medjuel's tribe took some days. On arrival, there seemed so much to learn, chiefly the customs of the

The sinister rise of the extreme Right

ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE

In the final part of his report, Roger Boyes reports from Prague on the dangers of resurgent nationalism

THE Czechs like to compare Miroslav Sladek to Mr Bean. There he is on the poster for the far-Right Republican Party: tall, gaunt, dark hair, pale face. You can guess, even from an election picture, that he is physically uncoordinated and, well, fanatical.

"No," said a man with body-building credentials, "Mr Sladek is not seeing journalists." Quietly he was joined by three other men with matching biceps. In a solid Roman phalanx they moved forward as I tumbled quickly out of Mr Sladek's Prague office.

I had met similar people before: ultra-Rightists, spinning pistols on their index fingers, in Zagreb; the skin-head *gard du corps* of Boleslaw Tejowski who claims that the Pope is a Jew; the German organisers of the Free Workers Party who belch in your face. However smugly they are dressed, you cannot escape the feeling that they left their black shirts in the laundry.

Mr Sladek's Republicans are anti-Gypsy, anti-Semitic, anti-foreigner and anti-foreign correspondent: they won 18 seats in the Czech general elections. It should be possible to write them off as an oddity. But their presence in Prague - where Jewish, German and Czech cultures have interwoven for centuries - is sinister and disturbing.

Even in the bad times, Prague's relationship with its Jews was never quite as brittle as that of Warsaw. Yet Mr Sladek is still capable of threatening to send "unsatisfied Jewish co-citizens back to their Promised Land".

Mr Sladek is firmly in the tradition of the newly emerging nationalist Right in Europe. The 1989-90 revolutions in Eastern Europe were built on the basis of anti-communist coalition.

Communist parties changed leaders and programmes, but survived, keeping organisation and funding. The Right splintered, and splintered again. The result has been a jumble of voices, from Thatcherite conservative to extreme nationalism.

Michael Shafir, a senior analyst with Open Media Research Institute in Prague, sees essentially two variants of anti-Semitic nationalism. Radical continuity parties extract elements from the communist rule of the preceding 50 years: parties of radical return hark back to earlier days - the true path was set in the 1930s.

The anti-Semitism of the far-Right infiltrates into everyday political vocabulary. Aleksandr Lebed made what appeared to be a throwaway remark about Judaism during the Russian election campaign and many, it seems, approved. Anti-Semitism cannot be eradicated by government decree. As the Hungarian writer Pal Bodor says: "Anti-Semitism is eternal, like gravity. One can assume that there is anti-Semitism on Mars, even if there is no life there."

Mainstream politicians can make a difference: they can shun the anti-Semitic fringe; they can make sure that courts give appropriate sentences to anti-Semites.

Scope does exist, however, in the more robust civil societies, like the Czech Republic, for parties to become explicitly philo-Semitic, to project a



Skinheads march in support of plans for a shopping centre at Auschwitz - a project halted by the Polish President

IMAGINE the delight of the developer: a prime site, cheaply bought, near a medium-sized town in southern Poland, the "tiger" economy of the east. Hundreds of thousands of foreign visitors pass by, hungry mouths for a fast food restaurant.

The flaw in this otherwise sure-fire business plan becomes apparent when you ask for details of the town - Oswiecim, better known by its German name of Auschwitz. The developer received the go-ahead from local authorities, building work began - with the blessing of the museum director.

AUSCHWITZ

But the headline "Supermarket Auschwitz" torpedoed the project, enraging the world Jewish community.

It will take generations before Poles and Jews will be able to work out a common history that is sensitive to the needs of both nations. Before the war three million Jews lived in Poland; today there are only a few thousand.

During the communist era, the Poles were reluctant even to admit that Jews were the main victims of Auschwitz.

The Polish President not only personally bans the shopping mall, but also expresses public regret and shame for the vicious Polish postwar pogroms against Jews.

The terms of their relationship are slowly changing, though many Jews still regard Poland as the cradle of anti-Semitism. Perhaps the most refreshing part of the Polish-Jewish feud about the camp is that nobody now questions its historical veracity. There are a few Holocaust deniers on the very margins of the Right in Poland but they are widely regarded as mentally unhinged.

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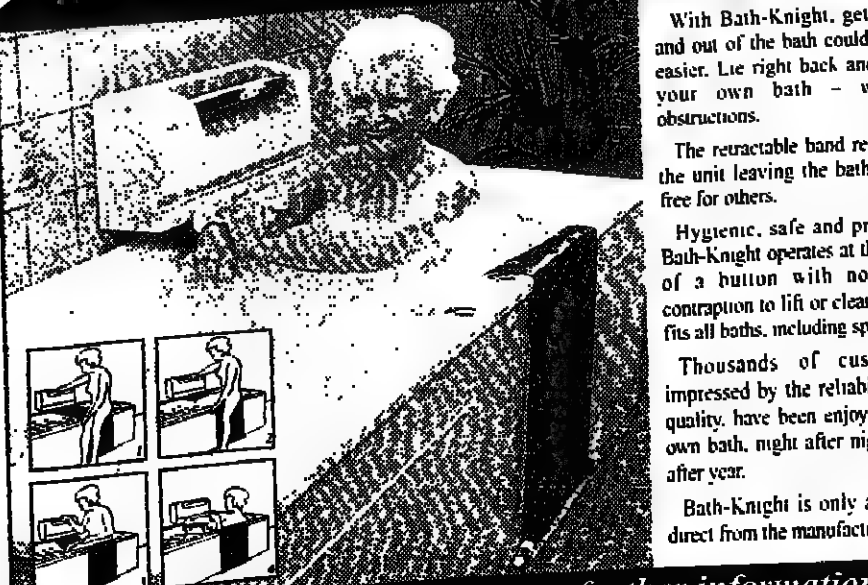
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Tiger, tiger, are you burning out?

Asia's economies may have been overrated, says Anatole Kaletsky

Capitalism seems in good heart these days not only in America, but also in Britain and continental Europe. By contrast, the capitalists of Asia — especially those of the financial variety — are in rather poorer spirits. Could it be time to start harbouring doubts about all those predictions we used to hear about the "Asian century" and even the imminent triumph of the "tiger" economies? Confucian values over sclerotic Europe's Judaeo-Christian civilisation?

Last week, the London stock market closed at its highest ever level, a record that looks fairly likely to be bettered in the days ahead. The markets in New York, Frankfurt and even in crisis-prone Paris have also recovered after July's corrections to stand at or near their historic peaks. Meanwhile, the stock markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Seoul and Bangkok present a very different picture. Japanese shares today are worth only half what they were in 1990. For the past three years the market in Hong Kong has struggled to regain its late 1993 level, while Wall Street has forged ahead by 50 per cent. In South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand, financial confidence has fallen so steeply that governments have had to organise special financial support schemes to limit the damage from the threatened stock market collapse.

If this picture of the world economy seems to bear no relation to what you have heard about in political speeches or even read in the financial pages, do not be surprised. The politicians may warn of the challenge to Western supremacy from ultra-competitive tiger economies in Asia. The City pundits may urge you to put your savings in the "emerging markets", since these are certain to grow three times more strongly than the sclerotic over-regulated economies of Europe and America for decades ahead. But stock markets love nothing better than to frustrate both pundits and politicians.

They did this in a small way a few weeks ago, when Wall Street rebounded strongly after its summer setback, instead of falling headlong into the "bear market" which most respected investment analysts, especially in London and Edinburgh, have been predicting for the last two years.

The markets have also begun to defy the conventional wisdom which says that share prices take fright and fall in response to accelerating economic growth. Instead, while the young men in red braces propound the wisdom of the 1970s and 1980s — that falling unemployment will stir inflation, provoke high interest rates and trigger a stock market rout — the market itself is well on its way to restoring the older, more common-sense notion that used to rule in the 1950s and 1960s: that prosperity is good for profits and so for shares.

Here, then, is one message from the markets worth pondering, even for people who have absolutely no personal interest in shares: political confidence may be at a low ebb in both America and Europe; businesses and consumers may still be shell-shocked by the recession and gloomy about the future; but to judge by the markets' behaviour, the years ahead are more likely to resemble the stable, non-inflationary and relatively prosperous 1950s and 1960s than the crisis-ridden 1970s and 1980s.

An even more intriguing idea arises from pondering the relative movements in stock market prices around the world. Why is it that share prices have done so well in

America and Europe, while falling in Asia — to the embarrassment of virtually all professional investment managers, who have been pumping tens of billions of dollars of their clients' money unprofitably into Asia, while selling their holdings in America and Europe year after year?

The easy answer is that share prices rose much more strongly in Asia in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and that therefore Europe and America have simply been catching up. But this only prompts the next question: How is it that Europe and America were able to catch up? After all, the tigers were supposed to have eaten the old countries for breakfast, or at least to have left them permanently far behind. Part of the answer probably lies in the Thatcher-type reforms undertaken in America, Britain and parts of continental Europe to make economies more competitive and to shift the balance of power in favour of capital and investment, rather than labour and consumption. But such reforms on their own could never begin to close the cost advantage enjoyed by the Asian tigers. Nor could they transform the pampered Europeans and Americans into fanatically determined workers like the Asians. If — as some politicians and businessmen in the West had begun to fear, and many in the East had begun to hope — the key to Asia's future dominance was going to be the discipline and respect for authority of the non-democratic, Confucian culture, then far nastier medicine than a few years of Thatcherism was going to be required.

Europe and America have produced the better returns

Nowadays, a choice between the Asiatic and Western models of economic development is available even among the emerging markets. Eastern Europe and Latin America are generally following the Western pluralistic political model, but the backward Asian economies — Vietnam, Burma and, above all, China — appear to be increasingly confident that they can advance by repressing democracy and maintaining the traditional Asian authoritarianism.

Even among the more mature economies, of course, it would be absurd to suggest that pessimism about the relative prosperity of America and Europe can be laid to rest by a few years of superior stock market performance. But it would equally be unwise for Jeremiahs to ignore the message of the markets. Investors have found that putting money into Europe and America has produced better returns than investing in the Far East.

All too often, the advantages of low costs and social cohesion in Asia have been offset by the drawbacks of corruption, arbitrary government and lack of innovation. Confucian values have proved conducive to the mass production of simpler manufactured products, but as the Asian countries have become more efficient at making these things, the value placed on them by world markets has dropped. Meanwhile, the value commanded by the more imaginative products of individualistic, disordered Western societies has risen — allowing many Western companies to stay far ahead.

The dichotomy is illustrated by an embarrassing question that many Western fund managers ought to face from their clients in the months ahead. What has been the best way to buy a stake in the growth of Asia's emerging markets? The answer: buy shares in Coca-Cola, Disney, Microsoft or Intel — all of which are quoted on the New York Stock Exchange.

Cyril Ehrlich says admission of women to the Vienna Philharmonic continues a remarkable tradition

Music, muscle-power and maidens in white

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra intends to take on some women players. Its director said so last week, with the circumspection of an evasive city's most cherished institution. He avoided details and named no names, but hazarded the guess that "quite a few" ladies would join the elect within ten years. Feminists may be tempted to celebrate the fall of a last barricade, but history urges a little more caution.

Long after women gained the vote and access to every kind of job, including medicine and the law, they were still excluded from the bandroom. Before 1914, only a rare few leading orchestras engaged a lady harp, or a couple of token second violins. Not that there was any shortage of readily available talent in rapidly increasing quantity and occasionally of stunning quality. Throughout the 19th century, women were denied entry to the orchestra's rank and file, but some were allowed to achieve international success as solo instrumentalists. To name but a few, the pianists Arabella Goddard, Clara Schumann and Teresa Carreno, and the violinists Lady Halle and Marie Hall were equal to any man in musicianship, stamina and drawing power. Yet it was the conventional wisdom that only men, tough and resilient, should play behind them.

One expert said that a muscle essential for violin playing was "entirely absent from the female arm" — though that did not prevent a young lady (one of Joachim's pupils) from performing the Brahms concerto in 1893 with a prominent London orchestra, few of whose violinists would have dared tackle the piece. There were also sadder warnings against exposing refined girls to the language of the bandroom, the perils of late home-going, and so forth. Above all, it was said, men had families to support.

However, the number of qualified women greatly increased, as did the range of instruments they were allowed to play. Excluded from established bands, they formed their own groups — from teashop trios to full symphony orchestras. In 1871, 125 years before the Vienna Philharmonic decided on its cautious move, a Vienna Damen-Orchester was performing waltzes in New York, "a score of

blushing maidens attired in purest white". A generation later, hundreds of female bands worked the international concert circuit. Visitors to Stockholm, for example, included the Viennese Ladies' French Horn Quartet, "national" ladies' orchestras from Sweden, Germany and Romania, and Mrs Hunt's English Ladies' Soloist Orchestra.

During London's gloriously busy 1913 season, two Queen's Hall symphony concerts in May showed what could be achieved in standard repertoire. The Wilhelm Sachse Orchestra had some 120 women and a few men. Similarly large — as was then thought appropriate for any serious concert — was the Shapero Symphony Orchestra which, with Myra Hess as concerto soloist, borrowed only a few men from the London Symphony Orchestra to play wind instruments. Inevitably, the First World War opened doors. Henry Wood, more

liberal if less comic in such matters than the utterly politically incorrect Beecham, seized a chance to import women to his Queen's Hall Orchestra. With 137 applying for jobs he appointed four violins and two violas — on equal pay and with a separate bandroom. In 1917, one of them, Dora Gartland, led the Proms for a week. Such gains were reversed when men returned from the trenches, but the silent cinema provided huge alternative employment for every kind of instrumentalist, until those jobs were destroyed in turn and for ever by talkies in 1927.

Then broadcasting began and the BBC established new standards of orchestral employment, with several women in the Symphony Orchestra, including Marie Wilton, another future leader. By 1939, the process of slow assimilation seemed irreversible, particularly in provincial orchestras, and it was hastened again by war.

Yet most front-rank orchestras engaged few women, and some none at all, even through the post-war concert and recording boom. Only in America were equal opportunities taken seriously: with anonymous auditions behind screens being one exemplary procedure.

Nowadays everyone pays lip-service to equal opportunity and most orchestras practise it. We shall need more than the fingers of two hands to count the women in Masur's New York Philharmonic, or Abbado's Berlin Philharmonic at this month's Proms. Nor are we likely to detect any decline in standards.

So is Vienna truly the last barricade? Its need to accept women is said to be pushed by their predominance at music schools, and pulled by a threat to cut state subsidies. It will be argued that the Vienna Philharmonic is unique because of its homogeneity, particularly among the strings, which must at all costs be retained by self-evident means. Modern showpiece bands, some will say, are cosmopolitan and so lack style. But isn't that more a question of teachers and schools of instrumental playing than of gender? Such issues may take another decade to resolve.

The author's books include social histories of the piano and the music profession.

Ambushed by the camera

Not only does photography lie: it is also an instrument of aggression

Some of my best friends are photographers. Since they might not be friends after the next few hundred words, I offer at this point an affectionate farewell. Honestly, I am not sure of your life. I am sure of yours. This is not just a Royal Family issue, though the Queen's plea for her grandchildren's holiday privacy and the Princess of Wales's stagey anguish over the dreadful Mr Stanning provide a useful focus.

Have you ever actually faced a big battery of motor-drive cameras? I have (only because I was sitting next to Sara Keays at the time) and I count it one of the nastier moments of my life. The flash and rattle, the sense of being gobbled up, is unnerving: unless perhaps you are a carefully presented star who lives by it.

Libby Purves

Even so, imagine being Diana — or Liz Hurley — and facing that on your own doorstep on a bad day. "But they love it! They live on it!" cry the paps. "They started it!" There is a grain of truth in this, but a bushel of hypocrisy: we are talking about the difference between a one-night stand and a lifetime of gang-rap. Or, to put it another way, having had a wisdom tooth extracted does not mean you invite all comers to knock out the rest of your teeth.

I also remember that flash and rattle every time I see a photograph of some poor ordinary devil in the news for some reason. Imagine you are an accused — possibly innocent — person leaving criminal proceedings, staring wildly at the sudden onslaught of cameras. Only weeks ago I saw a friend, awaiting trial on unpleasant charges, photographed in just that way: in his eyes was the shock of the cameras, and the further shock of realising that anybody who saw him splashed across the local paper would say "Weirdo!" without a word of evidence. A photographic ambush makes anyone look weird. And how about mourners at funerals, and jilted wives?

Yet we are told to accept it in the interests of "freedom". Now I ask you: if a movement had grown up in which gangs of young men followed people around pointing and letting off firecrackers and jeering, would not some action have been taken? But because they point lenses, it is all right.

The trouble is that technology and practice have shot far ahead of civilised values. It is time we caught up and placed some restriction on non-consensual photography, just

as we do on other technological nuisances, such as car horns. Hitherto we have meekly accepted that if a cat may look at a king, it follows that any misfit may buy a camera and make a princess's life hell. Or yours, or mine. This is not just a Royal Family issue, though the Queen's plea for her grandchildren's holiday privacy and the Princess of Wales's stagey anguish over the dreadful Mr Stanning provide a useful focus.

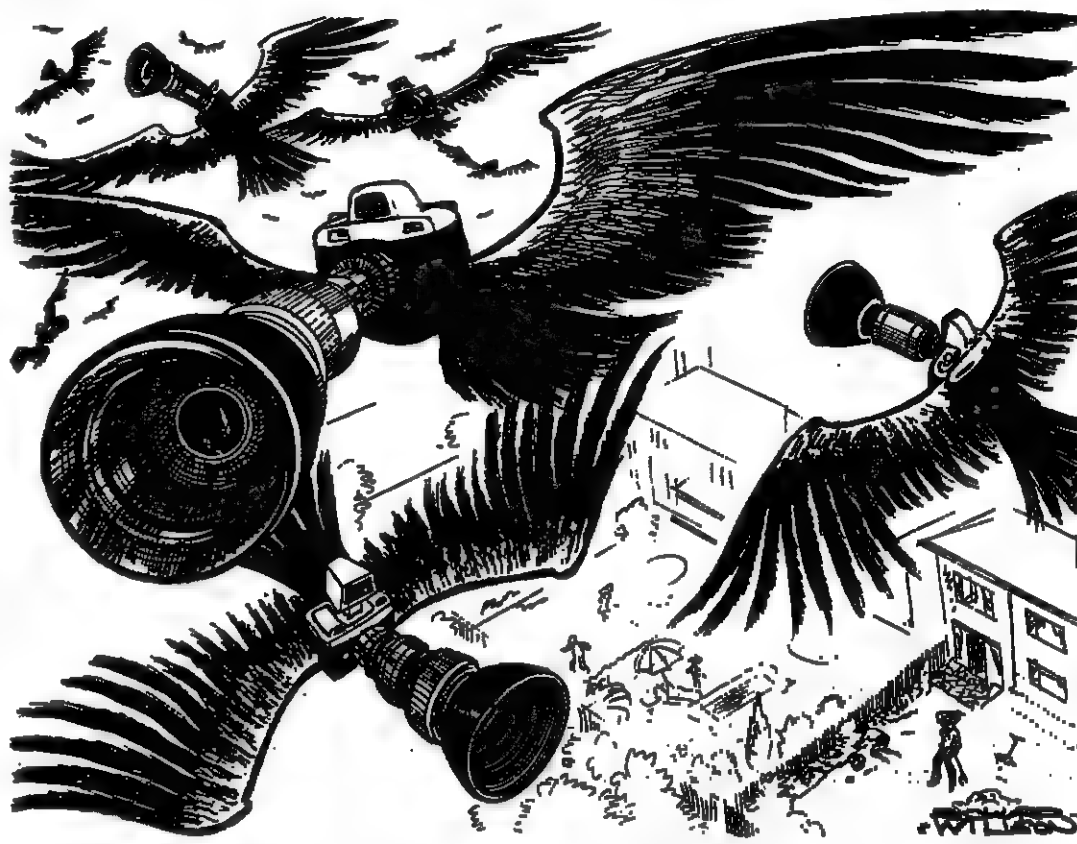
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Why did I say "jeering"? Camera-men, surely, are friendly geese, yelling "Over here darling! Give us a smile!" Indeed, but the jeering comes later, when the pictures are used. Sometimes it is merely mischievous or affectionate: a Cabinet minister dozing, the Queen urging on a racehorse. Sometimes it distorts the accompanying story: a husband shown grinning alongside a report of his wife's death, a mother pictured at a party, months ago, now that her child is in trouble. Often it is plain spiteful: Diana's cellulite thighs, a gay star looking worryingly thin.

Plenty of those snapped and ridiculed are not even newsworthy. A seedy convention has grown up whereby it is thought acceptable to photograph an unconscious stranger and use him to illustrate a feature on Essex man, yobboish holiday Brits, bad dressers, or whatever. We meekly accept that anything the human eye (or long, long lens) can see is up for grabs, for someone else to profit by.

Or to drool over in private. Last week an American postman was convicted by Bournemouth magistrates of taking indecent pictures of young children. A beach inspector spotted him videotaping nothing in particular, and it was discovered that his machine had a mirror and false lens to record naked children playing to one side. Child protection laws enable him to be convicted, but it reminds us that anybody

can end up as an unwitting part of someone else's profitable collection of images. Perhaps not his sexual fantasy, but his sneer at fat beach Brits, or his pretentious social commentary about cardboard city people or rave culture. Camera-men travelling to less "sophisticated" countries are often amazed to find that picturesque peasants praying in church or bashing squids on quays resent their intrusion. But it is we who are too meek: the primitive instinct is the healthy one, and if Prince William is entitled to wade around in Balmoral bogs unmolested, the same goes for the squid-basher.

Even where pictures are posed, there is plenty of unavenged abuse. I cringe to relate this, but once, for the BBC, I agreed to be the subject of a profile in a particularly snide weekend supplement. The text was pretty awful but the photograph was worse: a three-hour session, with make-up and wardrobe and a famous glamour-magazine. Layers of pancake and three hats later, I emerged from the scented attentions of his minions to leave in my travelling, computer-lugging, scruffy daily uniform of leggings and T-shirt. When he said "One more small mug-shot" and snapped. Of course it was not a mug-shot, but a full picture from knee level, skillfully angled to make me look like a Cell Block H prison

guard. It was what they wanted all along: a dykey-looking BBC rat-bag. I wrote to the photographer, who never answered, secure in the knowledge no doubt that he has even worse ones salted away to sell when my turn next comes round to be demonised.

Already in America there are video paparazzi. Cameras grow smaller and cleverer, the media hungrier. We have grown hardened to the idea that it is all right to grab somebody's image without speaking to them or even being seen. The cold-hearted combination of assumed intimacy and emotional distance is part of our culture. At Mont St Michel a few years ago, Marie-Noelle Guillemet drowned trying to save her six-year-old, under the whirling camcorders of tourists. They raised no alarm, held out no hand. One later bragged: "I got the whole thing on tape." Can you wonder when yesterday the chief photographer of *The Independent* said that if the royals were in a car crash he would "take pictures first and then help afterwards"?

I am not condemning the camera, just remarking that its users deserve no special pleading. "The public interest" does not mean anything that the public might be interested in. And it might hurt our industry to have to defend, in courts of law, the very few of our intrusions into privacy which really are justified.

Disorderly

DISGRACE swiftly followed victory for the Oxford University First Eight in the South of France this weekend. After beating Cambridge for the first time in five years at a regatta in Mandelieu, near Cannes, members of the boat went on a wrecking spree to rival the England soccer team's notorious flight



Oxford on the water

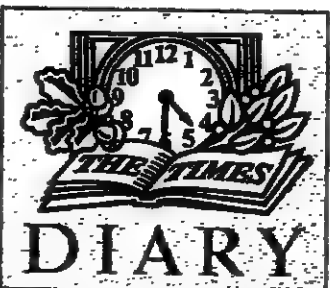
from Hong Kong earlier this summer.

Celebrations culminated after a night of heavy drinking at 3am with the cox, Alex Greaney, bouncing up and down on top of a white Porsche outside a bar in the town. Police were summoned and money changed hands.

The local gendarmerie yesterday confirmed that an incident had taken place; they said that the miscreants had been drinking too much and were singing loudly on the seafront and jumping on cars. "The police were indeed called," says Stephen Royle, director of rowing at Oxford. "It was high jinks after their victory. One of the team had an on-the-spot fine. No one was arrested, and the matter was settled there and then."

Peter Bridge, Olympic coxswain and the only French-speaking squad member, helped to negotiate the settlement and the fine of 2,500 francs — well over £300.

Covent Garden is preparing to fête Plácido Domingo, who in



December will celebrate 25 years of working at the Royal Opera. He will conduct one performance of Tosca, sing the role of Siegmund in Die Walküre, his first German part at the House, and then on December 12 will orchestrate a gala evening to celebrate the Royal Opera's 50 years at Covent Garden. He is expected to ask Luciano Pavarotti, José Carreras and their young rival Roberto Alagna to join the singalong.

Over the eight

THE COUNTRY'S best-known mother-to-be, Mandy Allwood, is learning about the high life. At the weekend she slipped away from

her Home Counties hideaway, donned a blonde wig and toasted her eight unborn babies with champagne in a supposedly incognito visit to a West End restaurant.

Accompanied by her boyfriend, Paul Hudson, who was wearing a hat and dark glasses, she was recognised immediately because the third member of the party, the self-publicist Max Clifford, went undisguised.

Apparently she decided to have a



"And we propose a modest replacement for Britannia"

night on the town. "Mandy was in a really good mood and had a craving for a curry," said Mr Clifford.

Butling on

STAFF NEWS from Blenheim Palace, where the Duke of Marlborough is in need of a butler. A cold palm and Jeeves-like resource are preferred, as is a certain dexterity with tureen and ladle. Background is unimportant.

Ivor Spencer, top bib at the School of Butlery and currently teaching in Las Vegas, explains: "Fifty years ago, prospective butlers were uneducated and quite poor. Now we get them from all walks of life and of all ages." Applicants should not, however, expect to be invited to shoot with their employer.

Zulu wear

TALK AT Edinburgh's cocktail parties concerns the Zulu ladies who provided entertainment with their tribal dances at Edinburgh Castle during the Tattoo. Why were they wearing black bras? Recently, a topless Zulu lady was



Bras on at the Edinburgh Tattoo

spotted cavorting in St James's Park in front of Buckingham Palace. Now, over their canapés, Scottish conspiracy theorists have been claiming that the Tattoo's organisers turned down requests from the dancers that they too should perform topless. They added that somebody had been dispatched to buy bras on the ladies' behalf, and returned with white ones: these had to be changed for

black because they were too conspicuous. "It's all nonsense," says a Tattooist. "We haven't exercised any control over their dress. The idea must stem from the day in 1994 when we did insist that some men in kilts wore underpants for fear of offending the audience."

P.H.S.



THE WAY AHEAD

Change for the Royal Family requires caution and consent

Rare is the royal house that has successfully foreseen the challenges of the future. The commoner pattern is of random events, conservative excess, excessive change and decay at a time unplanned. The House of Windsor, from its non-German renaming to its emergence into the television lights, has proved itself more foresighted than most. Despite a welter of scandal among the younger members, the Queen has steered her family ship with quiet sagacity and skill. Public debate about the monarchy has also been strong in the past few years. The Times has been prominent in those arguments, accepting that the days were over when royal dignity could endure best in darkness. If, as reported today, the Queen has overseen her own review of royal rules, titles and privileges, that is to the good. But it is all the better that the complex issues, which go beyond the House of Windsor to the constitutional monarchy itself, should be heard in the open.

The recognisable outlines of the current arrangements were drawn during the reign of Queen Victoria. The execution of Charles I and exile of James II led to Britain becoming a parliamentary nation, but it was in Victoria's time that the nation moved from oligarchy to democracy and found a monarchy that was a truly popular focus for unity. Since then royalty has weathered upheaval and unhappiness but, in the words of Professor Vernon Bogdanor in *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, "there have been no fundamental alterations to the monarchical model as it had evolved by the end of Victoria's reign".

This in itself might imply that the time is now ripe for review. Politicians of the Left, sensing power, are keen to play their part. Government ministers are no less anxious to be seen in touch with the tide of accountability, egalitarianism and fiscal restraint. The changes considered appear to touch primarily on the succession and on royal finances.

Two reforms which appear, at first sight, attractive are changing the Act of Settlement to allow the heir to the throne to marry a Roman Catholic and altering the system of primogeniture to allow the monarch's first

child to become heir apparent, irrespective of sex. The first change would seem a belated recognition that the religious struggles of the 17th century should not intrude on the 21st. Difficult issues need not, however, to be negotiated. A future Catholic consort, and thus Catholic heirs, would end the ability of the monarch to remain Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Even the prospect of such an outcome would risk the established status of the Church.

The Prince of Wales has pondered aloud the prospect of distancing himself from the Anglican establishment in order to accommodate the needs of a multicultural nation. It is far from certain, however, whether any culture would be well served by such changes. The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, argued in the 1991 Reith Lectures that disestablishment would mean "a further dissociation between religion and public culture and would intensify the dangers of a collapse in our moral ecology".

Allowing a princess to inherit the throne ahead of younger brothers could be less fraught. Sweden made the change in 1979 and it might appear not only an equitable but a wise response to the conspicuous ability of the women in the Royal Family, from Victoria to both Queen Elizabeths and the Princess Royal. Since the succession is secure for the foreseeable future through the Prince of Wales to his sons, the change could be gracious symbolism. Financially, the Queen has already conceded to change by stripping down the Civil List and paying taxes. The current case for further reform is poor. The Royal Household, in total, probably costs the Exchequer some £50 million a year; in the last year for which figures are available the Chancellor enjoyed a surplus of £94.6 million on the Crown Estate.

More valuable, by far, however is the security and peace which a constitutional monarchy can bring. In 1872 Benjamin Disraeli responded to the republican agitation of the time by arguing that Britain had benefited, unlike its neighbours, from having the choice of head of state fixed "without the sphere of human passions." That argument remains hardly less strong now.

DAYTON DEADLINE

Postponement of Bosnia's poll would be the greater evil

The destruction by Nato troops of an illegal Bosnian Serb ammunition dump is a demonstration that the West will not tolerate further breaches of the Dayton peace agreement. Such firmness is overdue. The Bosnian elections are less than a month away, and on present trends are heading for fiasco. Almost none of the conditions for these elections laid down at Dayton has been fulfilled: it is not clear who will be allowed to vote, where ballots will be cast or whether any open campaigning, free of intimidation, will be possible. None of the nationalist parties in Bosnia shows signs of respecting the disciplines of democracy. The military observers preparing to police the complex ballot are profoundly pessimistic.

Dayton provided for general elections at national, federal, cantonal and municipal level. The aim is to create legitimate sources of authority to implement the peace agreements, oversee reconstruction and govern the country when the Nato Peace Implementation Force withdraws. The date set, in mid-September, is the latest that is compatible with a withdrawal of American forces by December. Nothing has changed the Clinton Administration's determination to demonstrate, before the November presidential election, that this is running to schedule. But the minimum electoral conditions laid down by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe manifestly do not exist. Indeed, Flavio Cotti, the OSCE head, has virtually washed his hands of responsibility and may hand over to Nato, thus placing the onus directly on the peace-keepers.

Can they deliver the vote? They have the

manpower to do so, but all the signs are that they are not prepared to use it. Nato has shirked an important precondition: the arrest of at least the most prominent of the political and military leaders indicted for war crimes. Nato forces could have arrested General Ratko Mladic last week; they deliberately took avoiding action. Under the Dayton rules, millions of displaced Bosnians are entitled to vote in their home villages. But Serb, Croat and even Muslim communities have refused to let refugees back, even for brief visits to their relatives' graves. So long as Nato declines to provide effective escorts, the chances of buses being allowed to cross armistice lines to reach the polling stations are virtually nil.

The International Crisis Group, which includes such figures as Senator George Mitchell, argues that a botched poll will destabilise the already fragile peace. But there is one persuasive argument for insisting that the vote goes ahead. Without a deadline, Bosnia's politicians will decide that Dayton is just a diplomatic figleaf for the West and can be safely ignored. Nato, sensibly, is making contingency plans. The Americans have hinted that they may send troops back after a token withdrawal, staged to convince US voters that Bosnia is not a quagmire. But the West's priority now is to hold to the Dayton agenda. That means not just exhortation, but the use of sufficient manpower and political pressure to convince Bosnia's leaders, and ordinary Bosnians too, that the constitutional foundations of peace must and will be laid. Any yielding of ground, above all by Nato, courts their contempt.

BATTLE OF CANBERRA

Howard's Government experiences its baptism of fire

In the worst incident of its kind in Australian history, the national Parliament was stormed yesterday by a motley crowd of rioters armed with sledgehammers and battering rams. Their protest was directed against the national budget to be presented today by Peter Costello, the Treasurer. Its essence, as has been known for some time, is to eliminate the A\$8 billion budget deficit within two years — exclusively by reducing government spending. This is a bold move for John Howard, the conservative Prime Minister whose Liberal-National coalition won the general election last March.

Previously considered a grey man, Mr Howard showed how decisive he could be earlier this year when he swiftly imposed tight gun controls in the wake of the Tasmanian massacre. The economic challenges he now takes on will test all his resilience. The decisions he must take are ones ducked by successive governments. They include a current account deficit averaging 4.5 per cent of GDP over the last decade, weak domestic savings and inflexibility in the labour market reinforced by the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

The 1996-97 austerity budget is the first stage of an ambitious house-cleaning. A specially created National Commission of Audit has come up with a set of radical recommendations. These would see the wide-

spread use of means-testing in health and welfare, the phased end of public housing, contracting out of services for Aborigines and a transfer of many administrative functions from Canberra to the states.

How much of this Mr Howard will take up is uncertain. A highly controversial plan to reduce education spending has already been announced. A major programme of privatisation will start with Telstra, the state telecommunications company. Employment in the Commonwealth Public Service will lose the protection it enjoyed under Labor. The first jolt to employees will be the introduction of performance-related pay.

Mr Howard is thus taking on an army of deeply entrenched interests that even Baroness Thatcher would recognise as formidable. His task is made more complex for lack of a majority in the Senate which has to approve the budget. He is also short of time: Australian parliaments last a maximum of three years. The number of jobless is unlikely to drop noticeably, if at all, over that period.

Yesterday's ugly scenes, intended to intimidate, could instead work to Mr Howard's advantage, rallying public opinion behind him. Paul Keating, the Australian Labor leader, was admired by Tony Blair and was to some degree a model for New Labour. For true radicalism Australia has had to wait for the return to power of the Right.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Flurry over flags on identity cards

From Dr Ralph J. Lamden

Sir, The argument about which emblem — royal coat-of-arms, Union Flag, EU emblem — is to appear on our new identity cards (report and leading article, August 19) seems to be a smoke-screen designed to cover up a vital point of principle.

This is that except in times of national emergency, which can be covered by the Defence of the Realm Act, there has never been a duty on British citizens to prove who they are by presentation of an identity card.

Now, although initially the card is to be "voluntary" one can easily foresee a situation where citizens stopped by the police "on suspicion" will be asked for their cards, and non-production may be grounds for detention until evidence of identity is produced. So the voluntary will become the necessary.

At one time our MPs would have revolted from party on such a principle as this. Now they can only argue about the typography of an inherently objectionable document.

Yours &c,
RALPH J. LAMDEN,
7 Weald Rise,
Tilhurst, Reading,
August 19.

From Mr J. R. Havers-Strong

Sir, I hope that it has been appreciated by those who wish to impose identity cards in time of peace on the peoples of the British Isles, that it is not only the use of the Union Flag that is a potential cause of dissent.

The royal arms as used in Scotland differ from those used in England in ways important to Scots, and any use of the latter version would be as offensive as the use of the Union Flag in Northern Ireland or Scotland.

Let us be rid of the whole thing and the Home Secretary with it.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. HAVERS-STRONG,
34 Fernside Avenue,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex,
August 19.

From Mr W. S. Affleck

Sir, I see that Michael Howard's voluntary identity card "will be combined" with the new driving licence. Does this mean that the ID card will become compulsory for drivers or that the new driving licence will be voluntary? Let me guess.

And why are some people so determined to load the ID card with information and adornment? We really will gain no benefit from European or Union or other flags, from royal arms or whatever else, on a card whose sole function should be to provide clear identification of the bearer.

Yours sincerely,
W. S. AFFLECK,
Barley Hill,
Watledge, Nailsworth,
Stroud, Gloucestershire,
August 18.

From Mr J. Humphrey-Evans

Sir, The question of the Union Jack on identity cards should be resolved by giving applicants a choice of design, so that holders can identify themselves as Unionists, Scots, Welsh and/or Europeans. The chosen flags could be included in the background to the printed individual details, so that no additional space on the card be used.

After paying up to £15, the customer should at least have some say in the product.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES HUMPHREY-EVANS,
Cartel,
Dyserth, Denbighshire,
August 19.

Civil Service recruiting

From Mr David Gladstone

Sir, The real significance of the Government's decision to privatise the Recruitment and Assessment Service (Lord Taylor of Gryfe's letter, August 6) is that it is only the first step along a road that leads logically to the privatisation of the whole of the Civil Service.

As Lord Taylor records, Mr Michael Heseltine's sole justification for this first step is that it accords with his party's dogmatic belief that the private sector always does things better than the public.

The dogma is chipping away at more and more activities once thought to be the inalienable prerogative of the State as agent of society as a whole: prisons, government laboratories and our tax records have already fallen prey to the mad axemen and many government agencies are poised to follow suit.

The British electorate does not much care for policies driven by ideology. Mr Heseltine's party was able for years to exploit the Labour Party's dogmatic attachment to the supposed panacea of nationalisation. Now that new Labour has conspicuously shed that albatross, the Tories seem curiously eager to hang its twin round their own necks.

The case for our distinctive public-service ethos, rightly praised by Dr Joan Bridgman (letter, August 12), could all too easily go by default.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GLADSTONE,
1 Mountfort Terrace, NI,
August 16.

Issues raised by the death of a priest

From the Reverend Christopher Fenton

Sir, There is a painful truth for the Church to learn, following the violent death of one of its heroic priests (letter, August 17). The Church needs, I suggest, not so much to take steps to ensure the physical security of its ministers, but as much to remind itself, and them, of the limits of its remit, wide as that may run.

It seems to have been one of the more admirable qualities of Christopher Gray's personality that he was simply not aware of the extent of his giftedness — would to God that there were more of his kind around. However that quality has its disadvantages, also. The Bishop of Liverpool was surely right when he said, trying to make sense of the tragedy: "I have no smooth answers. It feels like sheer loss and waste."

There was a phrase, however, in your obituary (August 16) that struck some chord in my heart: "... not for him the safe distance of non-directive counselling." Some of us will be wishing to God that there had been. Whatever the merits of non-directive counselling (if indeed such a thing exists), if Mr Gray had understood more clearly the nature of what it was he was being confronted with, and the limits of what he could properly offer in response — wide limits, but limits nevertheless — we might have had him with us today.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER FENTON
(Priest/Director),
The Saint Anne's Practice in
Psychiatry,
The Leys, Aston, Kingsland,
Leominster, Herefordshire,
August 17.

'Feathered enemies'

From Mr Graham Wynne

Sir, Contrary to the implication in your leading article, "Feathered enemies" (August 12), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has nothing to fear from the important research work on birds of prey being undertaken at Langholm. The RSPB bases its policies on the best science available which is why it has been happy to help fund this study.

You state that the results are a terrible disappointment for "predator-protectors" as "rare heathland birds ... were hunted almost to extinction by their feathered enemies". The Langholm study does not examine this issue: it concentrates on grouse and their predators.

There are, broadly, two possible outcomes for the study: it might show that birds of prey do not cause problems for commercial grouse-shooting, or it might indicate that such rare and protected birds do reduce the profit-

From Dr Bernard Ratigan

Sir, Your moving obituary of the Reverend Christopher Gray was, I fear, somewhat marred by the comment on "non-directive counselling". I do not know how any form of counselling or psychotherapy can be really "non-directive". What I do know is that in many urban areas clergy like Father Gray can be in a very vulnerable position when ministering to the casualties of our so-called system of "care in the community".

Unlike many police officers, social workers and GPs, our parish priests actually live among their people. I know that priests are not social workers but this does not preclude them having front-line training and skills in making rapid assessments and taking care of themselves. Our Lord may not have been an approved social worker but my reading of the New Testament is that he knew how to deal with the casualties of his time.

I would strongly urge those preparing and supporting clergy for those ministries at least to undertake a basic training in making assessments of a person's mental state before attempting any form of counselling. My fear is that sometimes well meaning attempts to counsel mentally disordered people can actually make situations worse.

Logically, it seems to make sense that any intervention which has the power to heal must also be able to do damage.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD RATIGAN
(Consultant adult psychotherapist),
Nottingham Psychotherapy Unit,
St Ann's House,
114 Thorneywood Mount,
Nottingham,
August 17.

ability of grouse-shooting.

This would encourage some to seek to alter the law to allow birds of prey to be killed, but that is not acceptable. Numbers of birds of prey are still relatively small and are highly vulnerable to persecution and land-use change. They need continued protection.

Secondly, the quality of moorland management has been in serious decline for many decades, during which the main enemies of grouse-shooting have not been feathered predators but overgrazing of their habitat by sheep and deer, loss and fragmentation of habitat by forestry plantations, and inadequate heather management. These issues need to be addressed by landowners and conservationists working together.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM WYNNE
(Director of Conservation),
The Royal Society for the
Protection of Birds,
The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire,
August 12.

Animal protection

From Mr John Bryant

Sir, I must protest about Peter Barnard's Weekend feature, "Who are Britain's real animal lovers?" (August 10).

Unfairly, as we see it, it was illustrated with a picture of a former chief executive officer of the League Against Cruel Sports, photographed in front of the League's logo, who appears recently to have recanted his opposition to fox-hunting.

"Most of the anti-hunting lobby now accepts that foxes are vermin," Mr Barnard claims. I have been campaigning against fox-hunting for 25 years and I have never found any anti-hunting society or individual that holds this view.

For the record, the League accepts the statements by MAFF that foxes cause insignificant damage to farming.

Mr Barnard also suggests raids on mink farms by "animal-rights campaigners" account for the return of the mink to our riverbanks.

In fact, mink were well established in the wild in Britain many decades before "animal liberationists" even existed. Some mink escaped and others

were deliberately set free by mink farmers hit by falling fur prices.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRYANT
(Head of Press and Research),
League Against Cruel Sports,
Spartan House,
83-87 Union Street, SE1.

From M. Louis d'Alancón

Sir, Mr Barnard's article makes interesting reading to a Frenchman. One of the first rights granted the French citizen at the Revolution was the right to hunt, until then the privilege of the aristocracy. Only a handful of fanatics would wish to abolish this right.

Since coming to England ten years ago I have had the pleasure of taking part in field sports of every kind, in a country which has no written constitution, no list of rights and no revolutionary tradition. Yet the party which proposes to bring those benefits to the British people proposes to abolish the right to hunt, arbitrarily affecting the lifestyles of thousands of citizens.

Britain may be a country of animal-lovers, but it has more than its fair share of people-haters too.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS D'ALANCON,
52 Redcliffe Road, SW10.

Yours, puzzled

From Mrs Sara Spillius

Sir, With reference to your correspondence on dissuading houseguests from doing their host's Times crossword, I must take issue with Mrs Jenny Baker (letter, August 13: see also letters, August 8, 9). She says that she was annoyed when an associate gave her the answer to 3 across. There is no 3 across, maybe she meant 3 down.

Yours faithfully,
SARA SPILLIUS,
Flat 3, 25 Cleveland Square, W2,
August 14.

The great divide

From Mr A. E. Nye

Sir, Secretary of State James Baker says (report, August 16) that the US and Britain are experiencing the "worst relationship since the Boston Tea Party".

Whatever happened to 1812?

Yours sincerely,
A. E. NYE,
62 Belle Vue Road,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire,
August 16.

Anonymous informers

From Mr Geoffrey Hinton

Sir, The Reverend Alan Robson (letter, August 16; see also letters August 10, 14) quotes the Emperor Trajan's letter to the younger Pliny, that "Anonymous accusations must not carry any weight whatever ... [for] they are not worthy of the spirit of our age".

Suetonius, in his life of the Emperor Titus (AD41 to 81), recounts that: "One of the worst features of Roman life at the time was the licence long enjoyed by informers and their managers. Titus had these well whipped, clubbed, and then taken to the amphitheatre and paraded in the arena, where some were put up for auction as slaves and the remainder deported to the most forbidding islands."

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY HINTON,
1 Northmoor Place, Oxford,
August 17.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Hazards of reform to criminal law

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Drafting a criminal statute to curb the kinds of intrusive behaviour of which the Royal Family and the Princess of Wales have recently complained will be difficult (reports, August 17, 19).

A delicate balance will have to be established between individuals' rights to privacy and the right of the press to investigate and report. Further, the statute should be enforceable in magistrates' courts and be easily provable.

Drafting of legislation of this kind will be left to civil servants who will have had little, if any, experience of practice in the criminal courts. This augurs badly for the making of a workable Act. The Home Secretary should reconvene the Criminal Law Revision Committee to advise him.

This committee was set up by Mr R. A. Butler in 1959 for the purpose of advising the Home Office on changes in the criminal law which would be effective. It sat monthly from then until 1986 and dealt with many problems referred to it by Home Secretaries. It produced 18 reports, some dealing with specific topics, others with broad areas of the criminal law. Most of its specific recommendations became law. Its wider ones probably would have done too if parliamentary time for their discussion had been available.

It could act quickly, as it did with its first recommendation, dealing with indecent behaviour directed towards children, and its last, which made the prosecution of cases of fraud easier. Its usefulness and success arose from the fact that all its members, except its distinguished academic ones, had had long experience of the working of the criminal justice system.

The derided sections of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which prevented judges from taking previous convictions into account when sentencing and obliged magistrates to fix fines according to an artificial scale, would never have become law had the then Home Secretary reconvened the Criminal Law Revision Committee before presenting a Bill to Parliament.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON
(Chairman, Criminal Law
Revision Committee, 1976-86),
1 The Village, Skelton, Yorkshire,
August 18.

Priestley's perks

From Sir Bob Scott

Sir, I am almost ashamed to admit that I have taken me five years to catch up with Stephen Daldry's celebrated National Theatre production of J. B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. I did so, finally, last night. It is a tribute to the cast and the director that the production after so long a life should still seem worthy of all the praise and awards showered upon it. It was a superb evening.

At the same time, I was rather amused to discover that there was no interval, making the evening a non-stop 1½ hours.

I say amused because I had the good fortune to talk with the great JB in Manchester in 1974 when I was a very green theatre manager. I asked him that kind of rather silly question given to keen young aspirants along the lines of "what do you think was your greatest achievement in the British theatre?" Without a pause he said that he was the first and perhaps the only British playwright who had demanded from the management and got a nightly out from the receipts of the theatre bars.

I fancy that great Yorkshireman might have insisted we had an interval, even an extended one.

Yours faithfully,
BOB SCOTT,
Greenwich Millennium Trust,
11 King William Walk, SE10,
August 16.

Suitably light music

From Mrs Fiona Lauder

Sir, Watching the excellent BBC Proms on television on Saturday, I wondered why the men — the poor conductor, soloist, choir and orchestra — have to be dressed in heavy black suits on one of the hottest nights of the year. All were sweating profusely. Not so the excellent pianist, who looked cool in a beautiful, nearly blackless frock.

Thin white jackets for the men would be more comfortable and less funeral.

Yours sincerely,
FIONA LAUDER,
Prospect House,
Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent,
August 18.

Marking time

From Mr Henry Baynham

Sir, At this time of jubilation (or despair) for A-level students, spare a thought for the Assistant Examiners. It took me 150 scripts (or 60 hours) to repay my recent hour and a half in the dentist's chair.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BAYNHAM,
New Rusko,
Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Castle Douglas,
Dumfries and Galloway,
August 18.

Night flight policy was set out fairly

Regina v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council and Others (No 4)

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment July 26]

Proposals made by the Secretary of State for Transport in consultation papers in 1995 relating to restrictions on night flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted set out Government policy in that regard in a fair, rational and intelligible manner.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of Richmond upon Thames, Hillingdon and Hounslow London Borough Councils, Surrey County Council, Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council and Slough Borough Council from the dismissal by Mr Justice Jowitt (The Times March 21, 1996) [1996] 1 WLR 1005, of their application for judicial review of the minister's decision announced in a press release on August 16, 1995, in respect of night flight restrictions at those airports for various periods from October 22, 1995.

Mr Charles George, QC and Miss Helen Marshall, for the councils; Mr Ian Burnett and Mr Mark Shaw for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that in his White Paper on Airports Policy (Cmd 5542) (1985) the Government said, inter alia, it was committed to mitigating as far as practicable the effects of aircraft noise, and its objective was to bring about progressive reductions in noise at night by allowing only movements by quieter aircraft. In order to preserve a balance between environmental and aviation interests, the basis of its decisions would be based on research into the relationship between aircraft and sleep disturbance.

Between 1988 and 1993 its policy,

set out in a consultation paper of 1987, included continuing to improve noise at night so that disturbance of sleep was reduced, allowing airlines to continue to provide some scheduled night movements and encouraging them to continue to invest in quieter aircraft.

It rejected their request to allow flights at night without restrictions. Aircraft were then banded into three categories depending on the amount of noise they emitted, the noisiest being banded at night completely.

Pursuant to his powers under section 78(3) of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, the secretary of state limited aircraft movements, broadly, at Heathrow at night to 1,750 during the summer period (11.30pm to 6am) and 3,000 during the winter period (11.30pm to 6.30am). The actual level of movements for summer 1988 had in fact been 1,830.

In 1993, in order to set a new level for the next five years, a new consultation paper was published, and new arrangements were made to determine the number of aircraft movements by means of a weighting system which differentiated between different aircraft depending on noise emitted.

Although the proposals were set out clearly in one particular paragraph dealing with the size of the new quota, the Government said that in keeping with the understanding given in 1988 not to allow a worsening of noise at night, and ideally to improve it, it was proposed that the quota for the next five years based on the new system should be set at a level so as to keep overall noise levels below those in 1988.

However, no mention was made of the fact that the actual number of night movements at Heathrow for summer 1988 was such that if all the new permitted movements were taken up, overall noise levels would increase significantly.

Mr Justice Laws (The Times October 12, 1993) [1994] 1 WLR 741 set aside the secretary of state's

decision, made later in 1993, because the new restrictions failed to specify the maximum number of occasions on which aircraft of the descriptions specified might be permitted to land, as required by section 78(2), but only sought to impose control by reference to levels of exposure to noise.

Subsequent decisions by him were set aside by Mr Justice Latham (The Times December 29, 1994) [1995] 1 WLR 393 for failure to provide a full and fair consultation process because of the misleading paragraph in the 1993 consultation paper, and the failure to take into account the fact his decisions would permit movements at Heathrow which would produce greater noise than that experienced in 1988, contrary to his expressed policy.

In further consultation papers in March and June 1995, and the decision in August 1995, the secretary of state accepted that the paragraph in the 1993 consultation paper was misleading, and set out the comparison he was using: he made clear his policies and the proposals based on them did in fact allow more noise than was experienced from actual aircraft movements for summer 1988; he acknowledged that this was contrary to the policy expressed in the misleading paragraph.

He also introduced a new permitted level of "quota count points of noise" for Heathrow and other measures. For all except the noisiest aircraft, the new regime removed, inter alia, controls that previously existed between 6am and 6.30am on winter weekdays, and had the effect that for the period 11.30pm to 6am, although the maximum number of permitted movements as compared to that allowed in 1988 was reduced, significantly more "quota count points of noise" than was experienced in summer 1988 was allowed.

The councils challenged his August 1995 decision on the basis, inter alia, that as it involved an increase in aircraft movements

and noise, it constituted the withdrawal of a benefit or advantage, that is, the previous policy, from the inhabitants of their areas which they could legitimately expect to be permitted to continue to enjoy. *R v Devon County Council, Ex parte Baker* ([1995] 1 All ER 73, 80).

They contended that the consultation documents failed to set out rational grounds to satisfy the test established in *Council of Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service* ([1985] AC 374, 408), because, inter alia, they failed to explain:

(i) the reasons for the change of policy which permitted more noise than previously experienced; (ii) what the new policy was; (iii) how the proposals would maintain the essential balance between the interests of the airline industry and local people and (iv) how the noise climate for the whole of the night period was likely to change.

His Lordship said that it was reasonable to observe from the documents before the court a fairly continuous thread of broad government policy since 1985. The evidence showed the secretary of state, as the decision-maker, took decisions covering pre-determined periods, every five years since 1988.

What was important, in the way he exercised his powers under section 78(3), was that people should understand the policy objectives he identified when he began the decision-making process covering the next pre-determined period, and informed submissions could be made by them about his exercise of power against the policy background.

In the present context, it was sufficient for him to have identified with adequate clarity those objectives, which was Parliament, not the courts, which should hold him accountable if it wished to query or challenge the policies he had allowed.

The main thrust of the councils' criticism was that the 1993 consultation paper failed to spell out adequately how changes to certain

periods at night, especially the introduction of a broad measure of de-control between 6 and 6.30am in winter, was consistent with policy.

In his Lordship's view the policy considerations which impelled the change were reasonably clear from a careful reading of the 1993 consultation paper. Things had moved on since 1987, for example certain types of aircraft were much quieter; also, more emphasis was put on economic factors than had perhaps been evident in his 1985 White Paper.

Such matters were evident to anyone reading the consultation paper, and these in 1995 cancelled out any misleading impression from the particular paragraph in that paper.

It was now clear the secretary of state intended to proceed by comparing the permitted noise climate in the basic 1988 summer night quota period with the noise climate he was willing to permit in the summer night quota period under future arrangements.

As to the question whether the secretary of state should have explained the changes to the noise climate, in his Lordship's view there was a limit to the amount that it was reasonable to require a statutory authority to spell out in a consultation document.

Such a paper was a public document, and the way was open to objectors to argue that the same reasons that had held good for restricting de-control should still hold today for 1993-1998.

The evidence showed that the secretary of state made clear the extent to which he was consciously departing from previous policy in the 1993 paper. Thus the consultation papers set out the proposals fairly and rationally in an intelligible policy context, and his Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Jowitt in dismissing their application on that ground.

Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Leggatt agreed.

Solicitors: Richard Buxton, Cambridge; Treasury Solicitor.

Oakdale (Richmond) Ltd v National Westminster Bank plc

Before Mr Justice Chadwick

[Judgment June 28]

The restrictive terms of an all-monies debenture arrangement which provided for the lender bank to have control over the borrower company's book debts were necessary to protect the bank against the risk that its security would be dissipated by the company over borrowing and were not anti-competitive nor contrary to provisions of the EC Treaty.

The requirement that all book debts be paid into the company's account with the bank, far from being anti-competitive, was necessary in order that a fixed charge over book debts which the company had sought to create should be effective.

Mr Justice Chadwick held in the Chancery Division dismissing a summons issued by the plaintiff, Oakdale (Richmond) Ltd, and granting an order sought by the defendants, National Westminster Bank plc.

Mr Bryan Dye and Mr Thomas Lowe for the company; Mr Richard Field, QC and Mr Mark Hoskins for the bank.

MR JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the company maintained its accounts with the bank's Stokesley branch in Middlesbrough. The company's banking facilities were secured by an all-monies debenture dated June 30, 1990.

On April 4, 1996 the company commenced an action seeking, inter alia, declarations that the loan arrangements under which it was a borrower from the bank were prohibited and void under the provisions of articles 85 and 86 of the EC Treaty, and that the debenture was void.

The company issued a summons seeking an injunction restraining the bank from demanding payment or exercising its rights under the debenture. The bank issued a summons seeking an order restraining the company from paying the proceeds of any book debts charged to the bank under the debenture into any account other than the company's account at the bank's Stokesley branch.

On the face of it the effect of the bank's debenture was to create a specific charge over book and other debts, to require the com-

pany to pay the proceeds of its book and other debts into the company's account with the bank and to restrain the company, without prior written consent from the bank, from factoring, discounting, charging or assigning its book or other debts to any other person.

The company relied on article 85 of the EC Treaty, which provided that a provision which prevented it from assigning property which it had already charged to the bank as security for further lending by a third party was an anti-competitive provision.

Article 86 prohibited "agreements between undertakings, decisions by associations of undertakings and concerted practices which may affect trade between member states, and which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Common Market."

His Lordship said that the test was whether the restrictions imposed in the bank's standard mortgage debenture were necessary for rendering the transaction which was to be effected by that debenture properly operable, or whether they went further than that.

The transaction to be effected by the debenture was an arrangement under which the company agreed to give security over all of its assets for the purpose of securing all monies which the bank then or thereafter might advance to the company. That was a normal and everyday transaction in commercial life in the United Kingdom.

In order to give security over the whole of its assets, the company created a series of specific charges over those assets capable of being specifically charged and a floating charge over assets not capable of being specifically charged.

The advantages of a specific charge were that the bank's security was not subject to the prior claims of preferential creditors in the event of the company's insolvency.

In order for the specific charge over book debts to be effective it was necessary to provide for the bank to have control over the proceeds of collection of those debts.

Book debts were transient. They ceased to exist, as such, when they were paid by the debtors from whom they were due.

A bank which took a charge over book debts would not be fully protected unless it could insist that

the proceeds of collection were paid into a specified account under its control or at least an account in credit at another bank to which it could give notice of its charge.

The prohibition against selling, factoring, discounting or otherwise charging or assigning the book debts was not an absolute prohibition. The requirement for the bank's prior consent ensured that the bank was given notice of what was proposed and enabled it to exercise its own commercial judgment in determining whether what was proposed would prejudice its security.

The prohibition was necessary if banks were to lend on the security of book debts. If banks were not willing to lend on book debts the ability of small trading companies to obtain finance would be curtailed.

Far from being anti-competitive the prohibition clause promoted competition because it enabled a company to obtain additional finance from its bank under an all-monies debenture. Therefore the challenge under article 85 was not sustainable and there was no serious question to be argued at trial.

Article 86 prohibited abuse by "undertakings of a dominant position...". His Lordship said that the material before him did not sustain an arguable case that National Westminster Bank enjoyed a dominant position within the market for lending to small trading companies.

It was one of a number of banks of equivalent or greater size lending to small trading companies within the United Kingdom. Nor did the lending terms amount to an abuse of any dominant position which it might enjoy.

The provisions seemed to do no more than reflect what any sensible bank lender in that market would regard as necessary to protect itself against the credit risk that its security would be dissipated or that its borrower would become over borrowed and so unviable.

The plaintiffs' summons was dismissed. The order sought by the bank was granted and it was also ordered that the company produce an account of book debts collected since April 9 and pay the balance shown into the specified account.

Solicitors: Russell Young, Newcastle upon Tyne; Wilde Sapte.

Cost of saving insurers' money not recoverable

Yorkshire Water Services Ltd v Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc and Others

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton

[Judgment July 19]

An insured under a public liability policy could not recover the cost of measures taken in order to avoid or mitigate a loss which the insurers would or might have to meet.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the plaintiff, Yorkshire Water Services Ltd, against the decision of Judge Humphrey Lloyd, QC, sitting as Official Referee on February 5, 1996 when he determined certain preliminary issues in favour of the defendants, Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc, Prudential Assurance Company Ltd, Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc (formerly Sun Alliance Insurance International Ltd) Christopher Mark Swinbank, Colonia Insurance Company (UK) Ltd,

Baldin Insurance Company (UK) Ltd, Provincial Insurance plc, Hallmark Insurance Company Ltd, Chiyoda Fire and Marine Insurance Company (Europe) Ltd, GRE (UK) Ltd, Commercial Union Assurance Company plc and Royal Insurance (UK) Ltd.

Mr Robert Griffiths, QC and Mr James Ramsden for the plaintiff; Mr William Crowther, QC and Mr Graham Eklund for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the plaintiff was a wholly owned subsidiary of Yorkshire Water plc and the sewerage undertaker for Yorkshire under the Water Industry Act 1991. On February 12, 1992 an earthquake in the Deighton Twp failed and a vast quantity of sewage sludge was deposited in the River Colne and into the Deighton works.

According to the plaintiff's pleaded case, the nearby operations of ICI were affected. ICI started proceedings claiming that its property and business had been

damaged. Other such claims were also made or expected.

The plaintiff carried out on its own property urgent flood alleviation works costing £4,601,061 in order to avert further damage to the property of others and to prevent or reduce the possibility of similar claims.

The plaintiff claimed that it was entitled to recover under insurance policies issued by the defendants to Yorkshire Water plc the amount of ICI and others and also the cost of the remedial works.

The defendants rejected the claims on the grounds of material non-disclosure and for other reasons and because they maintained that the plaintiff's losses were irrecoverable. The plaintiff accordingly commenced the action against the defendants to establish that the defendants were liable.

A trial was ordered of preliminary issues which arose from the defences relating to the irrecoverability of the policies. Shortly before trial, due to the plaintiff and ICI settled. The

amount of the settlement was such that the plaintiff's claim arising out of the ICI proceedings could effectively only be pursued against the first defendants.

However, all the defendants maintained that, even if the policies subsisted, the plaintiff could not recover its flood alleviation claim under their terms. Thus, those issues were determined first, since if the second to twelfth defendants could not be liable to the plaintiff, the first defendant would be better able to decide on whether it was worth having a lengthy trial of the original preliminary issue.

The significant matter which had to be decided was whether the plaintiff was entitled, by virtue of terms to be implied into insurance policies, to the recovery of the costs and expenses of the flood alleviation works, on the basis that the insured was entitled to be indemnified in respect of expenditure made to prevent or minimise loss.

In his Lordship's judgment, the expenditure in question was covered by the express terms of the

policies. However, assuming that to be wrong, his Lordship considered that such a term would be virtually unworkable. It was not possible to see how, short of expensive litigation, it would be possible to decide what expenditure of the insured was reasonable. It was not just a question of considering whether the cost of the works themselves were reasonably priced, they had to be proportional to the cost of the damage prevented.

To take the present case, if the only potential liability was the £300,000 paid to ICI, could it be said that the £4 million worth of alleviation works was reasonable? One would think not. Yet how was the cost of damage which had not occurred to be quantified? His Lordship did not know and Mr Griffiths' submissions had not grappled with the point.

Lord Justice Waite agreed and Lord Justice Otton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Barlow Lyde & Gilbert, Watlington; Willey Hargrave, Leeds.

Regina v Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council, Ex parte Aslam

Where a local authority had made a decision as to housing a homeless person on bare advice given without reasoning, it should assist a court hearing an application to quash that decision by furnishing the court with reasoning derived from the adviser.

Mr Justice Sedley so held in the Queen's Bench Division on June 24 in granting the application of Enna-Mae Aslam for certiorari to

quash the decision of Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council of September 27, 1994 that premises offered to her were suitable despite her claim to be medically vulnerable.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said that the advice of the authority's medical officer was that "After consideration of all the medical information available to me, I am of the opinion that the property offered is suitable in terms of the applicant's needs."

Where a local authority, in a

case such as the present, made an independent medical practitioner part of its decision-making process, if it was to defend as valid and justify a report as that of Dr Rogers it was incumbent on the authority to explain to the court, through Dr Rogers, what it was that moved him to come to that view.

Nobody knew whether Dr Rogers had accepted the medical evidence and decided that the accommodation was suitable, accepted it but read it down somewhat, or rejected it.

Scots Law Report August 20 1996 Court of Session

No objection in principle to homosexual couple adopting disabled boy

T. Pettitioner

Before the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Wylie and Lord Weir

[Judgment July 26]

There was no fundamental objection in principle to an application for the adoption of a young, disabled boy by a homosexual man who proposed to bring him up jointly with his male partner. Such an application fell to be determined having regard to all the circumstances of the particular case, treating the prospective adopter as an individual rather than as a member of a class, with at the same time first consideration being given to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.

In determining such an application, a judge should not permit his personal views or private beliefs to affect his judgment but should apply public policy.

In determining whether such an application was within the intention of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978, Scots law should treat the European Convention on Human Rights (1953, Cmd 8969) as an aid to construction in the manner in which it was used by the English courts, contrary to what had been held in *Kaur v Lord Advocate* (1981 SLT 322).

The First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session, so held in a petition by A.M.T. for authority to adopt S.R., allowing a reclaiming motion, recalling the interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary, Lord Gill, finding that the natural mother of S.R. was withholding her agreement unreasonably in terms of section 16(2)(b) of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 and making an adoption order in favour of the petitioner.

Mr Peter Gillam for the petitioner; Mrs Janis Scott for the curam ad litem and the reporting officer; Mr Robert McCreadie as amicus curiae.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that the Lord Ordinary had refused the petition for two reasons. The first was that he was not persuaded that the mother was withholding her agreement unreasonably. The second was that in his view the application raised a fundamental question of principle that could not adequately be resolved on the basis of the information that had been before him.

Factual background

The child had a syndrome that occurred in the children of mothers, such as his own, who had taken certain medications as a

treatment for their epilepsy. He had abnormal forearms, a cleft palate, an abnormal left iris, and was profoundly deaf, unable to speak and unable to walk unaided.

He had been in foster care in England until the age of four. Then, following a favourable report by a guardian ad litem, the English High Court had authorised his removal to Scotland, where he had been placed with the petitioner as his prospective adoptive parent. The petitioner had for many years worked as a nurse.

It could be said that all those involved in the placement, including the petitioner and his companion, deserved the support of the court in meeting the challenges of this highly unusual and very difficult case.

The immediate result of a refusal to make an adoption order would be to remove the child from the security of a settled life in a home where he had been for more than 18 months and was happy and well cared for. The steps which were being taken to successfully enhance his development would be put at risk with wholly unpredictable consequences.

His Lordship could not believe that a court that had regard to all

the circumstances, first consideration being given to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout his childhood, could properly do otherwise than make an adoption order, so long as the statutory requirements were satisfied.

Natural mother's agreement

The Lord Ordinary had held that, since the mother had not replied to correspondence, or asserted herself of the opportunity of making representations to the court, there was no satisfactory information before the court that she understood that she would be deprived permanently of her parental rights, or that she might withdraw her agreement, if she were to give it at any time before the order was made, or that the alternatives in adoption had been discussed with her.

The immediate result of a refusal to make an adoption order would be to remove the child from the security of a settled life in a home where he had been for more than 18 months and was happy and well cared for. The steps which were being taken to successfully enhance his development would be put at risk with wholly unpredictable consequences.

In his Lordship's opinion, it was plain that the Lord Ordinary had misdirected himself on that issue.

The test was whether, objectively, no reasonable parent would withhold agreement: see *Lothian Regional Council v S* (1992 SLT 889); *D v P* (1994 SLR 417).

If the question of whether the parent had been provided with the basis for an informed decision was relevant to whether agreement was being withheld unreasonably, the parent would be able to frustrate the whole process by declining to give anything to do with it.

That in fact was what the Lord Ordinary had been permitting the natural mother to do in the present case. In his Lordship's opinion the court could treat the mother's attitude as amounting to withholding her agreement. The objective test was moreover fully satisfied.

A mother who had had no contact since birth with a child who was so severely disabled as the child and who was unable or unwilling to care for him herself in view of his disabilities, would not hesitate if she was giving first consideration to the need to safeguard the welfare of the child throughout his childhood, to give her agreement to the making of an adoption order where that would lead to the child being placed in a secure home of the kind which could be provided to him by the petitioner.

The position was also similar to that in *H v H, Pettitioner* (1976 SLT 89) where the parent had used his hands of his child and thus persistently failed without reasonable cause to discharge his obligations within the meaning of section 5(2) of the 1978 Act: see *Re B (S)* (an infant) (1988 Ch 204).

Report of curator ad litem

On what the Lord Ordinary considered to be the fundamental question of principle, his criticisms of the curator ad litem were without justification and they suggested that he might have misunderstood the nature of that process and the functions which the curator was being asked to perform.

The curator's task was primarily an investigative one, and he was required by the rules of court to express an opinion only upon certain matters because they were matters of fact that might require investigation. It was not the curator's function to express an opinion on matters of law.

The Lord Ordinary's suggestion that it was his duty to examine and report upon the question whether the proposal was within the intention of the Act and with reference to certain judicial dicta had no basis.

But if the Lord Ordinary had wished further advice on that matter, he could have asked for it. He had wished to see the research studies to which the curator referred in his report all he had needed to do was to order them to be produced to him.

If he had had questions to put to the curator, such as whether there were any published studies that were at variance with the views in his report, all he had had to do was to order the curator to appear before him.

One could only regret that the Lord Ordinary appeared to have been unwilling to make appropriate use of the rules of court in this case.

The curator had undertaken extensive research, and the way in which the results had been presented in his report demonstrated that he had amply fulfilled the confidence which had been placed in him by the court when he had been appointed.

Fundamental question of principle

As his Lordship understood the Lord Ordinary's observations on this matter, which had been expressed in general terms without reference to the particular facts of the case, he was giving first consideration to the need to safeguard the welfare of the child: see section 6 of the 1978 Act.

In his Lordship's opinion the short answer to the concerns which the Lord Ordinary had expressed was that the present case raised no such fundamental question of principle.

There could be no more fundamental principle in adoption cases than that it was the duty of the court to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child: see section 6 of the 1978 Act.

Issues relating to sexual orientation, lifestyle, race, religion or other characteristics of the parties involved had of course to be taken into account as part of the circumstances. But they could not be allowed to prevail over what was in the best interests of the child.

The suggestion that it was a fundamental objection to an adoption that the proposed adopter was living with another in a homosexual relationship found no expression in the language of the statute, and in his Lordship's

opinion, it conflicted with the rule which was set out in section 6 of the Act.

In *Re D (Adoption: Parent's consent)* (1977) AC 602, Lord Kilbrandon said: "It is not possible to generalise about homosexuals, or fair to treat them as other than personalities demanding the assessment appropriate to their several individualities in exactly the same way as each heterosexual member of society must be regarded as a person, not as a member of a class or herd."

Intendment of the 1978 Act

In any event, it might be thought that, if it had been intended, despite the decriminalisation of homosexual acts in private between consenting adults, that a person living in a homosexual relationship should not be able to apply for an adoption order, that would have been provided for expressly by Parliament.

The fact that Parliament had not done so was consistent with the provisions of section 6 and with the attitude that had been adopted in regard to adoption applications by single persons living in heterosexual relationships.

The intention of the Act could be taken to be to leave the question open to the court to decide, as a matter of facts and circumstances in each case.

European Convention on Human Rights

In any event, if the application was held not to be within the intendment of the Act, the question arose whether that would conflict with the European Convention on Human Rights.

In *Kaur v Lord Advocate*, Lord Ross had held that the court was not entitled to have regard to the Convention either as an aid to construction or otherwise. That opinion had been expressed after a careful review of the English authorities.

It was now established as part of the law of England that in construing any provision of domestic legislation which was ambiguous in the sense that it was capable of a meaning which either conformed to or conflicted with the Convention, the courts would presume that Parliament had intended to legislate in conformity with the Convention, not in conflict with it: see *R v Home Secretary, Ex parte Brindwell* (1990) AC 686; *R v Miah* (1994) 1 WLR 683; *Derbyshire County Council v Times Newspapers Ltd* (1993) AC 534 and compare *Anderson v HM Advocate* (1996 SCCR 114).

His Lordship considered that

the drawing of a distinction between the law of Scotland and that of the rest of the United Kingdom on that matter could no longer be justified.

However, if the court were to hold that the petitioner's application was not within the intendment of the 1978 Act, that would constitute an unjustified interference with the petitioner's right to respect for his

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H2346, H2347, H2348, H2349, H2350, H2351, H2352, H2353, H2354, H2355, H2356, H2357, H2358, H2359, H2360, H2361, H2362, H2363, H2364, H2365, H2366, H2367, H2368, H2369, H2370, H2371, H2372, H2373, H2374, H2375, H2376, H2377, H2378, H2379, H2380, H2381, H2382, H2383, H2384, H2385, H2386, H2387, H2388, H2389, H2390, H2391, H2392, H2393, H2394, H2395, H2396, H2397, H2398, H2399, H2400, H2401, H2402, H2403, H2404, H2405, H2406, H2407, H2408, H2409, H2410, H2411, H2412, H2413, H2414, H2415, H2416, H2417, H2418, H2419, H2420, H2421, H2422, H2423, H2424, H2425, H2426, H2427, H2428, H2429, H2430, H2431, H2432, H2433, H2434, H2435, H2436, H2437, H2438, H2439, H2440, H2441, H2442, H2443, H2444, H2445, H2446, H2447, H2448, H2449, H2450, H2451, H2452, H2453, H2454, H2455, H2456, H2457, H2458, H2459, H2460, H2461, H2462, H2463, H2464, H2465, H2466, H2467, H2468, H2469, H2470, H2471, H2472, H2473, H2474, H2475, H2476, H2477, H2478, H2479, H2480, H2481, H2482, H2483, H2484, H2485, H2486, H2487, H2488

Be quick on the ball and aim for the £50,000 goal

The Premiership is under way — and some of the world's most exciting footballers have been quick off the mark in making their presence felt and justifying those astonishing transfer fees.

But you will need to be quick if you want the added enjoyment of playing Interactive Team Football (ITF), the state-of-the-art football game, this season. The race for the first prize of £50,000 has already begun but it is not too late to catch up. Although the deadline for entries passed on Saturday, *The Times*, in association with Sky Sports Interactive, offers you another chance to join ITF and show your football knowledge by selecting a team from the best players in Britain — those in the FA Carling Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League.

The sooner you enter, the sooner your team will start to score points — and become eligible for the prizes. £50,000 will go to the season's winning team selector. £1,000 to the selector of the best team of the month and £250 for the best team of the week throughout the season. But you can only start scoring once your team has been registered — so don't delay. There is a Premiership match tonight — Leeds v Sheffield Wednesday — and eight tomorrow. From today postal entries will start scoring as soon as they are processed and telephone entries made by 12 noon will start scoring from matches played on that day onwards. You may enter as many teams as you like.

So what do you have to do? You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager. Study the lists of players in the five categories — goalkeepers, full backs, central defenders, midfield players and strikers — and the price of each. You must select a team in 4-2-2 formation, including one goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players and two strikers. You must pick a manager — who will have a price tag too.

All the players and managers have been allotted a five-digit code. Once you have selected your ITF team, you may enter it by post or telephone, using the entry form below. Then it is down to your players to score the points to take you to the top of the selectors' league. The points-scoring system reflects winning, losing and drawing, individual performance, consistency, goalscoring, defensive ability and fair play.

All matches from Saturday August 17 in the FA Carling Premiership, the Bell's Scottish League premier division and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs and the Tennents Scottish Cup involving premier division clubs count for points.

But how should you choose your team? The essential rules are that you cannot have more than two individuals (two players or one player and the manager) from any one club in your team, you may not pick the same player twice and that you must not exceed your budget of £35 million. For example, if you select as your



strikers the Liverpool pairing of Stan Collymore and Robbie Fowler, that will take up your Liverpool allocation. If, however, one of your selected midfield players, say Paul Gascoigne, leaves Rangers to join Liverpool, you will then have three at the Anfield club — but you need not worry. ITF has an active transfer system, which is in operation already, and you will be able to adjust your team accordingly. You must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget. Equally, if one of your players is transferred out of the Premiership or Scottish League premier division, he is no longer eligible for ITF. Any players from outside the Premiership or Scottish League premier division that are transferred to clubs playing in the top level during the season will become

available for transfer. Note, too, that there are several additional players since ITF was launched.

Your players and manager will win and lose you points. Points are awarded depending on every goal scored and conceded with three points earned for a goalkeeper or defender (full back and central defender) scoring a goal, two points for a midfielder player or striker scoring, three points for a defender keeping a clean sheet (not letting in a goal), four points for a goalkeeper maintaining a clean sheet, one point for a midfielder player keeping a clean sheet and all players receive one point for appearing in a match (providing they play for 45 minutes in that game). Any player scoring a hat-trick will receive six bonus points. To secure points for a clean sheet, a player must have played for at least 75 minutes in that match.

Points will be deducted for every goal a defender concedes (one), every goal a goalkeeper concedes (two), every booking a player receives (one), every time a player is sent off (three) and a point each for a penalty conceded by a player, a penalty missed and every own goal scored by a player.

If you have selected Kevin Keegan as your manager, you will earn three points if Newcastle United win, one point if they draw and have a point deducted if they lose. If Keegan was dismissed or moved to a club outside the Premiership or Scottish League premier division, you would need a new manager. Not only will you be pitting

your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you will also be matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), current Premiership players have been encouraged to enter sides of their own.

There are two methods by which you may enter. By post, fill in the entry form below (there is a step-by-step guide provided) showing the team in formation (photocopies are not acceptable) and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to *The Times Interactive Team Football* to Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1ZZ. You will receive a letter of confirmation and notification of your Personal Identification Number (PIN) and team. The entry fee for registrations outside the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland is £5.

By telephone, using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone, call 0891 405 011 to record your team following the simple step-by-step instructions. Calls will be charged at 39p per minute at peak times, 49p per minute at other times. Each call will last about eight minutes but will cost approximately double from a pay phone. The registration line for readers entering from the Republic of Ireland is 004 4990 100 320. Each player you enter will be confirmed on the telephone after you have completed your selection and the selector given a PIN.

All ITF queries should be directed to 01582 488 122.

EXCLUSIVE TO ITF ENTRANTS

FORM YOUR OWN ITF MINI LEAGUE AND GET PERSONALISED UPDATES

This season you and your friends can compete directly against each other in your own ITF Mini-League all you need are four or more people (up to a maximum of 100) and a nominated chairperson.

A Mini-League is simple to set up and costs only £2.50 extra. A Mini-League may only be entered by post. Each player must enclose his or her ITF application form in the normal way (see entry instructions on these pages).

All payments and entry forms must be in the same envelope along with the attached

form and your additional £2.50, payable to *The Times Interactive Team Football*, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1ZZ. You cannot add members to your Mini-League after your initial entry.

The fee is £5 sterling for a Mini-League for entrants outside the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Further details are available from 01582 488 122.

Each month, a letter will be sent to the chairperson showing the position of all entrants in their Mini-League.

MINI LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

I enclose all team entries in the same envelope along with an additional cheque/postal order for £2.50. Please set up my Mini-League.

Chairperson's name

Mini-League name

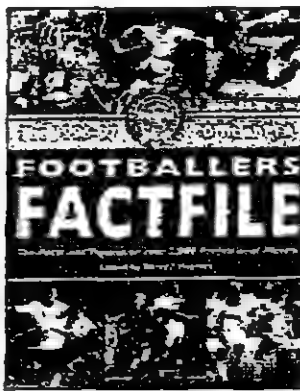
I enclose entry forms with £2 entry fee each, plus an extra £2.50 to set up my mini league.

Total payment £



20 SIGNED COPIES OF THE PFA FOOTBALLERS FACTFILE TO BE WON

We have 20 copies of the PFA Footballers Factfile to be won by players who enter *The Times* ITF between today and Friday August 30. The winners will be selected at random and notified by September 20. The PFA Footballer Factfile is the perfect companion for any ITF manager, with profiles on over 2,000 professional players. Each copy will be signed by Gary and Philip Neville.



PLAY ITF ON-LINE

Play on-line to win all the great ITF prizes, including the £50,000 first prize. Plus play for special Internet prizes, such as the £1,000 top prize and the £250 monthly prize. You can also check your position in the Internet league instantly, on-line.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Enter *The Times* Internet Edition at: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>
2. Look for the special ITF button.
3. Entry on-line costs £7.50, payable only by credit card. This allows you to make transfers for the entire season.



HOW TO PLAY

You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.

You must pick

- 1 GOALKEEPER
- 2 CENTRAL DEFENDERS
- 2 STRIKERS

- 2 FULL BACKS
- 2 MIDFIELD PLAYERS
- 1 MANAGER

Choose your players and manager from the Interactive Team Football category lists (which include code numbers and values). The total value of your 11 players and manager must not exceed £35 million.

You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club and no player can be picked twice.

Your players and manager accumulate points in all 1996-97 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from Saturday August 17 onwards. Every goal they score or concede counts towards your total. The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Fill in the entry form on the ball, right (photocopies are not acceptable) and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to *The Times Interactive Team Football* to Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ. The entry fee for registrations outside the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland is £5, which may only be made by post. Once your postal entry has been received you will receive a letter of confirmation and notification of your Personal Identification Number (PIN) and team. Your team will only start scoring points once it has been registered. Points scored by players before your registration is complete do not count. The sooner you enter the sooner your team starts scoring.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are touch-tone) to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or "pulse" telephone. You can enter your team by dialling 0891 405 011 (from the Republic of Ireland you must dial 004 4990 100 320). Then follow the simple step-by-step instructions. Listen carefully and take your time. The recorded message will ask you to tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and your manager in the following order: the goalkeeper, the two full backs, the two central defenders, the four midfield players, the two strikers and the manager. You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) and to record your name, address (with postcode) and daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). Please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use *The Times Interactive Team Football* form, right, to record your selections and your PIN. Calls cost 39p per minute at peak times, 49p per minute at other times. Each call will last about eight minutes. Each player you enter will be confirmed on the telephone after you have completed each selection. You will be notified of your PIN at the end of the call. No postal notification will be sent.

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

Interactive Team Football has an active transfer system to allow you to respond to changes in form and fitness and to players moving in and out of the Premiership and Scottish League premier division. You may transfer up to two individuals (player or manager) during a transfer period but you must keep to the team format (ie a full back must be replaced by a full back and no more than two individuals from the same club) and you must keep within the £35 million budget. If a player moves teams during the season and it affects the composition of your team, you must act (ie if you have two Arsenal players and one of your other players moves to Arsenal, you will have three players from the same club and will need to adjust it). You should use the transfer line to correct the situation to avoid missing out on points. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form. The transfer line number is 0891 866 968 (from the Republic of Ireland and outside the United Kingdom it is 004 4990 228). The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesdays to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before 12 noon on any day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches played after 12 noon the following day. You may only make a transfer by telephone. You will need your PIN. New players score points when his transfer is registered.

PRIZES

First prize: £50,000. Second prize: £10,000. Third prize: £2,500. Weekly prize: £250. The weekly winner can also nominate a local sports club to receive £250 worth of sports vouchers.

ALL QUERIES TO
01582 488 122

ENTER ON
SKY TV.
PRESS SKY
SPORTS TEXT
PAGE 505

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1996-97 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper	Keeps clean sheet	4pts	Striker	Scores goal	2pts	
	Scores goal	3pts		All players	Appearance	1pt
	Saves penalty	1pt		Scores hat-trick	3pts	
Full backs	Central defender	Keeps clean sheet	3pts	Manager	Team wins	3pts
		Scores goal	3pts		Team draws	1pt
Midfield player	Keeps clean sheet	1pt				
	Scores goal	2pts				

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper	Concedes goal	2pts	All players	Sent off	1pt
				Concedes penalty	1pt
Full backs	Central defender	Concedes goal		Misses penalty	1pt
				Scores own goal	1pt
Manager	Team loses	1pt			

EXAMPLE

Your midfielder scores three goals (3 x 2pts plus 3pt bonus as 12pts), is booked (minus 1pt), misses a penalty (minus 1pt) and plays throughout (plus 1pt in a 3-0 win (clean sheet + 1pt). He has scored 12 points in that match.

To enter by phone call
0891 405 011

Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate, 49p per min at other times. Calls should last approximately 8 mins. Entrants from Rep of Ireland only call 004 4990 100 320

TEAM NAME

Goalkeeper (up to 16 characters)

Full back

Central defender

Midfielder

Striker

Manager

Name

Address

Postcode

Daytime telephone no

Send your entries (with £2 entry fee) entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland (if writing) to: *The Times Interactive Team Football*, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX) Which daily newspaper(s) do you buy?

(1) 15-24 (2) 25-34 (3) regularly

(4) 35-44 (5) 45-54 (6) occasionally

(7) 55-64 (8) 65+

If you do not wish to receive other offers from *The Times*

0891 405 011

Study the list of players and managers, assess their ITF values and pick a team to beat the best

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
10101	Michael Watt	Aberdeen	1.50
10201	David Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10202	Vince Bartram	Arsenal	0.75
10203	John Lukic	Arsenal	0.75
10301	Mark Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50
10302	Michael Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00
10401	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
10402	Shay Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
10501	Gordon Marshall	Celtic	3.50
10502	Dmitri Khvarine	Chelsea	2.50
10602	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00
10701	Steve Ogilvie	Coventry City	1.50
10702	John Flann	Coventry City	0.50
10801	Martin Taylor	Derby County	1.00
10802	Russell Houtt	Derby County	1.00
10901	Ally Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50
11001	Ian Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50
11101	Neville Southall	Everton	2.50
11102	Jason Kearton	Everton	0.50
11103	Paul Gerrard	Everton	2.50
11201	Gilles Rousset	Hearts	2.00
11301	Jim Leighton	Hibernian	1.50
11401	Dragoje Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11501	Mark Beesley	Leeds United	1.50
11502	Paul Evans	Leeds United	0.25
11503	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	2.50
11601	Kevin Poole	Leicester City	1.00
11602	Zeljko Kalac	Leicester City	0.50
11603	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	1.00
11701	David James	Liverpool	5.00
11702	Tony Warner	Liverpool	0.50
11801	Peter Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
11802	Raimond van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00
11901	Gary Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50
11902	Alan Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50
12001	Scott Howie	Motherwell	1.50
12101	Shaka Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00
12102	Pavel Smicok	Newcastle United	3.00
12201	Mark Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50
12202	Alan Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75
12203	Tommy Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75
12301	Scott Y. Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50
12401	Andy Gorm	Rangers	5.00
12501	Kevin Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00
12601	Dave Beasant	Southampton	1.00
12602	Neil Moss	Southampton	0.25
12801	Tommy Cotton	Sunderland	1.00
12802	Ian Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
12901	Ludek Mikosko	West Ham United	2.00
12902	Steve Mautone	West Ham United	0.50
13001	Neil Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00
13002	Paul Head	Wimbledon	1.00

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
20101	Stewart McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00
20102	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	3.00
20202	Nigel Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00
20203	Steve Morrow	Arsenal	1.00
20301	Steve Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00
20302	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	3.00
20303	Gary Charles	Aston Villa	2.50
20304	Phil King	Aston Villa	0.25
20305	Fernando Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00
20401	Henning Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20402	Graeme Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20403	Jeff Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
20404	Gary Croft	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20501	Jacqui McNamara	Celtic	3.00
20502	Tosh McKinley	Celtic	3.00
20601	Dan Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00
20602	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	2.00
20603	Terry Phelan	Chelsea	2.00
20604	Scott Minto	Chelsea	1.50
20701	David Burrows	Coventry City	1.00
20702	Brian Burrows	Coventry City	1.00
20703	Marcus Hall	Coventry City	1.50
20704	Reggie Genaux	Coventry City	1.50
20801	Chris Powell	Derby County	1.00
20802	Dean Yates	Derby County	1.00
20803	Jason Kavanagh	Dundee United	1.00
20901	Maurice Malpas	Dundee United	0.50
20902	Mark Perry	Dundee United	0.50
20903	Neil Duffy	Dundee United	0.25
21001	Colin Miller	Dunfermline	0.25
21002	Andy Tod	Dunfermline	0.25
21101	Marc Hottiger	Everton	2.50
21102	Andy Hutchinson	Everton	2.00
21103	Earl Barrett	Everton	1.00
21104	Matt Jackson	Everton	2.00
21201	Gary Locke	Hearts	1.00
21202	Neil Pointon	Hearts	1.00
21301	Willy Miller	Hibernian	1.00
21302	Andy Dow	Hibernian	0.75
21401	Tom Black	Kilmarnock	0.50
21402	Gus MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50
21501	Gary Kelly	Leeds United	2.50
21502	Tony Doris	Leeds United	0.50
21503	Paul Beesley	Leeds United	0.50
21601	Mike Whitlow	Leicester City	0.50
21602	Simon Grayson	Leicester City	0.50
21603	Neil Lewis	Leicester City	0.50
21604	Frank Roling	Leicester City	0.25
21701	Rob Jones	Liverpool	3.00
21702	Steve Harkness	Liverpool	0.50
21703	Stig Inge Bjornebye	Liverpool	0.25
21704	Phil Charnock	Liverpool	4.00
21801	Dennis Irwin	Manchester United	3.00
21802	Gary Neville	Manchester United	3.00
21803	Phil Neville	Manchester United	2.50
21901	Neil Cox	Middlesbrough	1.50
21902	Branko	Middlesbrough	1.50
21903	Chris Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75
21904	Curtis Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.25
22001	Clayton Blackmore	Motherwell	0.50
22002	Stephen McMillan	Newcastle United	3.00
22101	Warren Barton	Newcastle United	3.00
22102	Steve Watson	Newcastle United	2.50
22103	Robbie Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50
22104	John Sissons	Nottingham Forest	4.00
22201	Stuart Pearce	Nottingham Forest	2.00
22202	Des Lytle	Nottingham Forest	1.00
22203	Ali Inge Haaaland	Nottingham Forest	2.00
22301	Nikola Jerkan	Raith Rovers	0.75
22302	Paul Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.50
22401	Dave Kirkwood	Rangers	2.50
22402	David Robertson	Rangers	2.00
22403	John Brown	Sheffield Wed	1.50
22501	Ian Nolan	Sheffield Wed	1.00
22502	Peter Atherton	Sheffield Wed	1.00
22503	Steve Nicol	Sheffield Wed	1.00
22504	Dejan Stefanovic	Sheffield Wed	0.50
22601	Lee Briscoe	Southampton	1.50
22602	Jason Dodd	Southampton	0.75
22603	Francis Benali	Southampton	0.75
22604	Simon Charlton	Sunderland	0.50
22701	Dariusz Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50
22702	Martin Scott	Sunderland	0.25
22703	Gareth Hall	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22801	Dean Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00
22802	Clive Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00
22803	Justin Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
22804	David Kerslake	West Ham United	4.00
22901	Julian Dicks	West Ham United	1.00
22902	Tim Braacker	West Ham United	1.00
22903	Keith Rowland	West Ham United	1.00
22904	Mark Bowen	West Ham United	0.50
22905	Kenny Brown	Wimbledon	1.50
23001	Ben Thatcher	Wimbledon	0.75
23002	Alan Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75
23003	Kari Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75
23004	Duncan Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25



Fabrizio Ravanelli's hat-trick against Liverpool has earned Middlesbrough's new striker a six-point bonus in ITF

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
30101	Brian Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00
30102	Colin Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50
30201	Tony Adams	Arsenal	4.00
30202	Steve Bould	Arsenal	3.00
30203	Martin Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30204	Andy Linighan	Arsenal	1.00
30205	Scott Marshall	Arsenal	1.00
30301	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50
30302	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30303	Paul McGrath	Aston Villa	2.50
30304	Alan Tiller	Aston Villa	1.00
30401	Ricardo Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00
30402	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
30403	Chris Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30404	Nicky Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50
30501	Tommy Boyd	Celtic	3.00
30502	Malik Mackay	Celtic	1.50
30503	Alan Stubbs	Celtic	0.75
30601	Michael Duberry	Chelsea	2.50
30602	Frank Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.00
30603	Frank Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
30604	David Lee	Chelsea	1.50
30605	Andy Myers	Chelsea	1.50
30606	Erlend Johnson	Chelsea	0.50
30701	Jerold Kjoelberg	Coventry City	2.00
30702	Liam Davis	Coventry City	1.50
30703	Richard Shaw	Coventry City	1.00
30801	David Bunt	Derby County	2.50
30802	Igor Stimac	Derby County	1.00
30803	Scott Marshall	Derby County	1.00
30804	Matthew Carson	Derby County	0.50
30901	Stevan Pressley	Dundee United	1.00
30902	Brian Welsh	Dundee United	0.75
31001	Mark Miller	Dunfermline	0.75
31002	Noel Berman	Dunfermline	0.75
31101	David Unsworth	Everton	2.50
31102	Dave Watson	Everton	2.50
31103	Craig Short	Everton	1.00
31201	Dave McPherson	Hearts	1.00
31202	Paul Ritchie	Hearts	1.00
31301	Joe McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50
31302	Gordon Hunter	Hibernian	0.50
31401	Mark Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00
31402	Ray Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	1.00
31501	David Wetherall	Leeds United	1.00
31502	Richard Johnson	Leeds United	1.00
31503	Lucas Radebe	Leeds United	1.00
31504	John Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50
31601	Steve Walsh	Leicester City	1.00
31602	Julian Watts	Leicester City	1.00
31603	Portus Karmark	Leicester City	1.00
31701	Spencer Prior	Liverpool	3.50
31702	Phil Babb	Liverpool	3.50
31703	John Scalls	Liverpool	3.50
31704	Mark Wright	Liverpool	3.00
31705	Neil Ruddock	Liverpool	1.00
31801	Dominic Matteo	Liverpool	1.00
31802	Gary Pallister	Manchester United	3.50
31803	David May	Manchester United	2.50
31804	Ronnie Johnson	Manchester United	1.50
31805	Nigel Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50
31806	Steve Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50
31807	Derek Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75
31901	Phil Whelan	Motherwell	0.75
32001	Brian Martin	Motherwell	0.75
32002	Michel van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75
32101	Phillip Albert	Newcastle United	4.50
32102	Steve Howey	Newcastle United	3.00
32103	Darren Peacock	Nottingham Forest	3.00
32201	Colin Cooper	Nottingham Forest	2.50
32202	Steve Chettle	Raith Rovers	1.00
32301	Shaun Derry	Rangers	3.50
32302	Richard Gough	Rangers	3.50
32401	Alan McLaren	Rangers	3.50
32402	Joachim Bjorndal	Rangers	2.00
32501	Jon Newson	Sheffield Wed	1.50
32502	Des Walker	Sheffield Wed	0.25
32601	Brian Linighan	Southampton	1.00
32602	Ken Monkou	Southampton	1.00
32603	Alan Neilson	Southampton	0.50
32701	Richard Dryden	Sunderland	1.00
32702	Andrew Moffie	Sunderland	1.00
32703	Kevin Ball	Sunderland	0.50
32704	Richard Orr	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32801	Soi Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32802	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32803	Gary McAllister	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
32804	Jason Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
32805	Kevin Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
32806	Stuart Nethercott	West Ham United	2.50
32901	Slaven Bilic	West Ham United	2.50
32902	Marc Rieper	West Ham United	2.00
32903	Steve Potts	West Ham United	2.00
32904	Richard Hall	West Ham United	0.50
32905	Rio Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.25
33001	Adrian Whitbread	Wimbledon	1.50
33002	Alan Reeves	Wimbledon	0.75
33003	Andy Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75
33004	Andy Pearce	Wimbledon	0.50
33005	Dean Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50
33006	Brian McAllister	Wimbledon	0.25
33007	Scott Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25

MIDFIELDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
40101	Dean Windass	Aberdeen	3.00
40102	Stephen Glass	Aberdeen	3.00
40103	Paul Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50
40104	Ilan Kitov	Aberdeen	2.50
40105	Tzanki Tsvetanov	Aberdeen	0.50
40201	David Platt	Arsenal	4.00
40202	Paul Merson	Arsenal	1.50
40203	Ray Parlour	Arsenal	2.00
40204	Glenn Helder	Arsenal	1.50
40205	Ian Selley	Arsenal	0.50
40206	David Hillier	Arsenal	0.50
40207	Eddie McGoldrick	Arsenal	3.00
40208	Patrick Viera	Arsenal	2.00
40209	Remi Garde	Aston Villa	4.00
40301	Mark Draper	Aston Villa	2.50
40302	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50
40303	Ian Taylor	Aston Villa	1.00
40304	Garath Farrelly	Aston Villa	0.50
40305	Franc Carr	Aston Villa	3.50
40306	Sasa Curcic	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
40401	Jason Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
40402	Lars Bohnen	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
40403	Garry Filcott	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
40404	Billy Sharp	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
40405	Tim Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
40406	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
40407	George Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.00
40501	Steve Davis	Blackburn Rovers	0.50

MIDFIELDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
40501	Paul McStay	Celtic	3.00
40502	Andreas Thom	Celtic	2.50
40503	Simon Donnelly	Celtic	2.50
40504	Peter Grant	Celtic	1.50
40505	Paolo di Canio	Celtic	3.00
40506	Ruud Gullit	Chelsea	3.00
40507	Dennis Wise	Chelsea	3.50
40508	Gavin Peacock	Chelsea	2.50
40509	Craig Burley	Chelsea	2.00
40510	Eddie Newton	Chelsea	2.00
40511	David Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50
40512	Roberto di Matteo	Coventry City	5.50
40513	John Salako	Coventry City	2.50
40514	Eoin Jess	Coventry City	2.00
40515	Kevin Richardson	Coventry City	1.50
40516	Paul Teller	Coventry City	1.50
40517	Paul Williams	Coventry City	0.50
40518	Lesie	Coventry City	0.25
40519	Willie Boland	Coventry City	1.50
40520	Michael O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50
40521	Alexei Asanovic	Derby County	1.50
40522	Paul Simpson	Derby County	1.50</

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY AUGUST 20 1996

Costain rule breach a threat to Exchange quotation



Peter Costain: family link

BY JASON NISSE

COSTAIN GROUP, the troubled construction company, is in talks with the Stock Exchange after finding it is in breach of official listing requirements because three of its shareholders held more than 75 per cent of its equity capital.

If the issue cannot be resolved the Exchange could force the cancellation of Costain's quotation, leaving 15,000 shareholders without an open market for their shares.

The group, which lost £131 million last year, has also become a Close Company, as defined by the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988,

because it is controlled by fewer than five shareholders. This definition could have serious tax implications once Costain returns to profit.

The Exchange's "Yellow Book", which covers listings on the full market, specifies that there must be a free float of a minimum of 25 per cent of a company's shares in the hands of private investors. Costain has informed the Exchange of the rule breach and the two sides are discussing how it can be resolved.

The problem has come about as a result of Costain's £74 million rescue rights issue, which went through at the end of last month. This left Intra Berhad, a Malaysian group which

agreed to bail out Costain, with 40 per cent of Costain's shares as a result of underwriting the three-for-one issue. However, Mohamed Abdulmohsin Kharafi & Sons, the Kuwaiti builders, objected to the issue and has been increasing its holding in Costain to curb Intra's influence. It now holds 25.2 per cent of the shares.

A third group, Raymond International of Saudi Arabia, partially supported the restructuring, allowing its shareholding to be cut from 19 per cent to 12.1 per cent.

Taken together the three shareholders now have 77.3 per cent of the shares and another 2.3 per cent is

held by the bankers to Costain. The family's last representative, Peter Costain, former chief executive, is still deputy chairman in spite of the family's minuscule shareholding.

The Exchange has told Costain that it expects the group to sort out its listing problems, either by forcing one or all of its large shareholders to cut their stakes or by issuing further shares. The first option is considered tricky because of the stand-off between Intra and Kharafi, and the second is felt by Costain's advisers to be unfeasible so soon after the recent rights issue.

No deadline has been set by the Exchange, but it would give Costain

at least two months to sort out the problem before taking any action. In the past the Exchange has removed the quotation for companies breaching the 75 per cent rule, but this is an extreme move and would only take place if the Exchange was convinced there could not be an active market in the shares. A spokesman said that it would take account of the interests of the 15,000 small shareholders in Costain before taking any pre-emptive action.

Costain is still looking for a buyer for its US coal business after a deal with Lonrho fell through.

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	2863.7	(-9.2)
FT-SE All share	4,052	
Nikkei	1908.96	(-2.88)
Dow Jones	2108.41	(+272.41)
S&P Composite	568.71	(-0.74)
	685.89	(+0.68)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5%)
Long Bond	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Yield	6.80%	(6.77%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Life long gilt	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)

STERLING

New York	1.5447*	(1.5478)
London	1.5455	(1.5483)
Paris	1.5455	(1.5483)
Frankfurt	1.5455	(1.5483)
Yen	168.54	(167.74)
Index	84.7	(85.0)

US\$/\$	1.4878*	(1.4921)
London	1.4878*	(1.4921)
Paris	1.4878*	(1.4921)
Frankfurt	1.4878*	(1.4921)
Yen	107.57*	(107.74)
Index	94.3	(94.3)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$20.20	(\$20.00)
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GOLD

London close	\$386.85	(\$386.15)
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* denotes midday trading price

Housing recovery spreads to all regions

By ROBERT MILLER

THE housing market recovers a further boost today with a survey that shows house prices in all regions of England and Wales have either held steady or risen during the last quarter. It is the first time this decade that all regions have been buoyant.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) also forecasts that the number of households caught in the negative equity trap will fall to about 100,000 within the next 12 months. This compares with estimates earlier this year that around 1.7 million households were still in negative equity.

The RICS says it was particularly cheered by July being another strong month for the housing market in spite of the traditional summer holiday lull. More recent anecdotal evidence for August suggests this trend is continuing.

For the first time this decade prices in all regions in the three months to July 31 were

reported to be stable or rising, with a national average net balance of 32 per cent of chartered surveyor estate agents indicating increases. At the same time last year, says the RICS, there was a negative balance of 28 per cent.

In a regional breakdown of the latest figures, the RICS says that the market recovery, recently dominated by London and the South East, is now mirrored in other areas. London still leads the way with a net balance of the participating estate agents seeing an increase in prices, closely followed by the South East on 60 per cent and the South West on 56 per cent. In Wales, the North and the North West, however, prices are said to be "virtually static".

Ian Perry, housing spokesman for the RICS, says: "It is a measure of the market's vigour that at this traditionally quiet period many agents reported that there were still not enough instructions to meet demand. All the economic conditions are in place for prices to continue rising, helping those in negative equity."

He continues: "For too long this burden has prevented people from relocating for a new job or to more suitable accommodation."

Most housing market analysts believe that the biggest test of the market's latest recovery will come in the autumn. Fears that interest rates, now at their lowest level for more than 30 years, will begin to rise again, coupled with political uncertainty as the general election moves closer, could again delay people moving house or deter first-time buyers from stepping onto the housing ladder.

The Halifax Building Society acknowledged the concerns of first-time buyers when it announced last week that it would launch a new initiative to guarantee that such buyers, who move between five and ten years after they have bought their homes and who are in negative equity, will not have to foot the bill.

Thorn fails to keep up with EMI

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

EMI, the record company, made a distinguished debut on the stock market while Thorn, its less glamorous sister company, struggled to make a first-day impression. EMI shares rose from an initial £14.22 to close at £14.60. Thorn finished the day at £3.91, down 19p. The two shares finished trading with a combined value of £18.51, 18p above Friday's final Thorn EMI price of £18.33.

The companies were trading separately for the first time after the approval of demerger plans at Thorn EMI's extraordinary meeting on Friday.



Dan Sullivan was accused of failing to keep the board fully informed of the true financial state of the group prior to the chief executive's appointment

Chamberlain Phipps in receivership

By JASON NISSE

CHAMBERLAIN PHIPPS, the shoemakers, went into receivership yesterday after its main lender, Bank of Scotland, refused to back a rescue package which would have involved the bank putting an extra £5 million into the company.

The collapse comes just two years after Chamberlain was floated on the stock market, valued at £75 million, and less

than six weeks since Archie Coulson, the company doctor, was made chief executive in a last-ditch rescue attempt.

It is the fourth failure associated with Dan Sullivan, the US investor who chairs Chamberlain. He was accused yesterday of failing to keep the board fully informed of the true financial state of the group prior to the appointment of Mr Coulson.

"You have to take a look at a situation where the profits were getting better and better while the bank account was going south," said Mr Coulson. "The non-executive directors pushed and pushed but did not get the information they needed until too late."

Yesterday Mr Sullivan was "in meetings" when *The Times* attempted to contact him. Mr Sullivan invested £3

million in a buyout of Chamberlain five years ago. He has been able to take out of it £1.7 million in share sales, £892,000 in dividends and £600,000 in salary and bonus payments since the float and his companies were paid £1.66 million in finder's fee for acquisitions prior to the float.

In its first results after flotation, Chamberlain's pre-tax profits rose from £4.4

million to £12.4 million. The second set of accounts have not yet been produced.

In May the company admitted it had debts totalling £47.5 million but it is understood that this had been reduced to £34 million by the time of the collapse.

Mr Coulson presented a rescue package to Bank of Scotland last week, but it was couched with a great deal of uncertainty about the UK shoe business, which has been hit by the collapse of the Facia group.

"They would have had to put a substantial amount of money in and I am not surprised they decided this was not a sensible commercial decision," said Mr Coulson. The amount is understood to be £5 million.

Murdoch McKillop and Simon Allport, at Arthur Andersen, the accountants, were made receivers yesterday lunchtime. They said they were confident they could sell the constituent parts as going concerns, so saving 430 jobs in the UK and over 2,000 in France, the US and Canada.

St Michael's double confession

By ANNE ASHWORTH

MARKS & SPENCER, a name normally synonymous with the highest degree of efficiency, has confessed to making around 41,000 of its charge card and personal loan customers pay twice.

The errors, the result of a computer glitch, arose between August 10 and August 12. M&S collected two lots of monthly direct debit payments from its customers' bank accounts. The store will

not reveal how much money it received, but based on average figures for store cards balances and typical borrowing repayment patterns, the amount could have been as much as £5 million.

As soon as M&S uncovered its mistake, it reimbursed the accounts and sent letters of apology. Most customers had been unaware that they had temporarily enriched the high street chain. Marks's bur-

geoning financial services division now has 215,000 personal loan customers and five million charge card holders.

Yesterday, a spokeswoman for M&S apologised again. She promised that, if any of the customers who had overpaid had incurred bank charges, these would be refunded. She added: "We have called for a full investigation into the affair and we will be putting a system of checks to ensure that, if

double direct debiting happens again, the alarm bells will ring immediately."

There has been concern about the fast-growing direct debit system, which allows banks, finance houses and stores access to customers' bank accounts to gather regular bill payments. Last year, there were 1.3 billion direct debit payments.

Pennington, page 25

John Galsworthy.

Novelist, author of *The Silver Spoon*, 1926.

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Markets await US and German rate moves

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MARKET concern about monetary policy in America and Germany should be partly relieved today when the Federal Open Market Committee meets to discuss US rates.

The markets believe that the Fed will opt to leave US rates unchanged for the time being, amid evidence that the economy's strong momentum

has begun to slow and that inflation remains studiously subdued. A Reuters poll of 30 economists last week showed that none forecast a rate move today.

The economy grew at a blistering 4.2 per cent in the second quarter but most economic indicators recently have suggested that the pace of growth has slowed. There was a 0.5 per cent drop in retail sales in June and a rise of only 0.1 per cent in July.

and housing starts slumped 1.3 per cent in July, the third drop in a row. This suggested that the consumer is beginning to rein back. But manufacturing also showed signs of cooling, with durable goods orders down 0.8 per cent in June, and industrial production up only 0.1 per cent in July.

In July, Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Fed, said that the central bank was on heightened surveillance

for inflation pressures but, at the same time, appeared to suggest that the threat was not believed to be imminent. Later this week, the markets' focus shifts to the Bundesbank, which meets on Thursday to discuss German rates. Having appeared to rule out a cut in its key repurchase rate, several high-ranking Bundesbank members last week appeared to leave open the possibility of a cut.

Much will depend on German money supply figures for July, due out tomorrow, whose growth is expected to have dropped significantly from the annual rate of 9.6 per cent in June.

The markets are hoping for a move on Thursday but there is still lingering scepticism. In recent months the Bundesbank has seemed to talk up the possibility of a rate cut and then disappointed expectations.

New scheme to sharpen skill for job applications

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Department for Education and Employment will today launch a £6 million programme to target people who have been unemployed for more than three months with a package of measures to improve job application skills.

The scheme, called Jobsearch Plus, has been devised to back up the Jobseekers Allowance, the tougher set of unemployment benefit regulations which came into force in October. Then, jobless people claiming benefit will face far more scrutiny over their attempts to find work and may suffer suspension of their payments. Claimants will have to sign a contract to receive benefit in which they are bound by requirements stipulated by a benefits officer

which will include the number of job applications per week they must make. Under the Jobseekers Allowance unemployed people can be ordered to apply for a job, or have their benefit halted.

Jobsearch Plus will be voluntary, although it is possible that people may be instructed to undertake it as part of their initial contract, and will offer a three-day seminar for claimants who have been unemployed for 13 weeks. The instruction will concentrate on jobseeking skills, such as writing applications, compiling CVs and interview techniques.

Eric Forth, employment minister, said: "Jobsearch Plus targets jobseekers who, after three months of unemployment, may feel that their jobseeking skills are flagging and who need help to increase their chances of getting work. Unemployment can be a demoralising experience and this programme will improve those skills which are vital for finding work."

The scheme will be open to jobless people who have been claiming between 13 weeks and six months. After six months other programmes are available. Those out of work for more than 13 weeks are forced to widen their search to jobs outside their chosen profession or the work they are skilled in. There are 1.5 million people who have been unemployed for more than 13 weeks, more than 70 per cent of the total jobless number. There are 335,500 people who have been unemployed between 13 weeks and six months.

According to the Department for Education and Employment, half of those who become unemployed find work within three months and two thirds within six months. Jobsearch Plus, which will run at Jobcentres and training centres, will focus on setting two job goals, identifying potential employers, preparing a CV, and preparing for interviews.



Wheel of fortune Lee Newbon, chief executive of Tinsley Robor, left, and Shaun Lawson are adding a packaging facility

Change of plan for TH site

By CARL MORTIMER

CHELSEA and Godfrey Bradman, the developers, are seeking to build a £400 million leisure and retail complex next to Paddington Station on a site formerly owned by Trafalgar House.

Chelsfield, the property group headed by Elliott Bernard, has teamed up with the former head of Rosehaugh to develop the 12-acre site in Paddington Basin, European Land & Development, their joint venture, paid Kvaerner, Trafalgar's parent, £3 million for a 99-year lease from British Waterways, the freeholder.

The new master plan for the site envisages more residential units.

Tempus, page 26

Ten bidders vie to take over Kepit

By ROBERT MILLER

INDEPENDENT directors of Kleinwort Benson's £500 million European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) are considering takeover offers from ten investment houses.

These are believed to include bids from Guinness, Flight, Fleming, Morgan Grenfell and Fidelity, as well as one from Kleinwort Benson, Kepit's present managers. The bidders are also believed to include Henderson, Touche Renmans's smaller European Growth Investment Trust (Treg), whose earlier bid for Kepit and the offer to liquidate the portfolio and give the money back to shareholders, sparked yesterday's deadline for offers.

Kepit's shares trade at a substantial discount to the net asset value of the underlying portfolio. Merrill Lynch is evaluating each bid.

Loyalty knocks societies' profits

By ROBERT MILLER

TWO building societies continued to mutualise yesterday disclosed the cost of offering members better savings rates and long-term loyalty bonuses.

Profits from the Coventry and Warwickshire Building Society, the UK's 13th largest building society, and the Newcastle bid in the six months to June 30.

The Coventry, which reported that total assets grew to £3.6 billion (£3.3 billion), said that pre-tax profits fell £4 million to £14 million. The society added that its Members Benefits package would deliver benefits worth £20 million in a full year.

Long-term borrowers with a Coventry mortgage for more than five years are given a home loan rate of 6.24 per cent against an industry average standard variable rate of 6.99 per cent. The society said that as a result of its more competi-

tive savers' rates the Coventry attracted almost £93 million in additional retail funds.

Newcastle Building Society saw half-year pre-tax profits fall to £6.4 million against £7.3 million last time and said its 0.5 per cent discount for long-term borrowers would cost £870,000 at the full-year stage. Provisions for bad and doubtful debt rose to £1.3 million against £1 million last year.

Newcastle reported record net savings of £73 million, while total assets grew by £38 million to £14 billion. Skipton Building Society yesterday announced that half-year pre-tax profits rose to £14.1 million against £12 million in the same period last year. Assets increased to £2.93 billion (£2.85 billion). Leeds & Holbeck lifted half-year pre-tax profits by 10 per cent to £9.2 million.

Tinsley expands in Austria

TINSLEY ROBOR, supplier of packaging to the music and multimedia publishing industries, is expanding in mainland Europe with the £1.1 million purchase of Reischl Druck in Austria (Martin Barrow writes).

The acquisition takes place in response to Sony's invitation to establish a packaging facility close to its two CD pressing plants in the Salzburg area. Sony has guaranteed a sales volume that should load the new factory for the next three years.

Shaun Lawson, chairman, said the acquisition was unlikely to have a positive impact in the current year but would lend confidence for future periods. Addressing the company's annual meeting he restated an early warning that the first half of the current year would be affected by the lack of large orders and losses arising from the relocation of the Dublin factory.

Hard-hit Hibernian raises its interim

STIFF competition and increased claims resulted in a sharp fall in interim pre-tax profits at Hibernian Group, the Irish insurance company, to £13.02 million from £19.21 million a year ago. Despite the poor performance, which saw earnings slide to £17.2p a share from £23.8p for the six months to June 30, the company announced an 11 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 13.1p.

Adrian Daly, chief executive, said the results were "satisfactory in markets which remain intensely competitive". Hibernian's biggest market, general insurance in Ireland, saw a two per cent drop in written premiums to £186.7 million and an underwriting loss of £17.69 million. In Britain claims arising from bombs in Manchester and London accounted for £450,000 of a £1.34 million operating loss. The international reinsurance and fund management sector saw profits rise to £18.84 million from just over £1 million last year, reflecting good property results.

Michael Page excels

MICHAEL PAGE reinforced its position as the City's leading recruitment consultancy yesterday with its interim results for the six months to June 30. Group pre-tax profits rose by 79 per cent to £14 million, lifted by profits of £4.81 million from its overseas subsidiaries. Its UK City operations delivered the strongest performance, lifting divisional profits by 70 per cent. Overall sales were 40 per cent ahead at £67.6 million. An interim dividend of 3p (1.1p) will be paid on November 11, from earnings which grew from 8.21p to 14.28p. Its shares leapt 38p to an all-time high of 345p yesterday.

Biotech network plan

BRITISH BIOTECH has taken an important step towards establishing a European sales network, with the appointment of Pam Kirby as director of international operations. Among the first tasks for Dr Kirby, for the last eight years head of the UK arm of Astra, the Swedish drug company, will be the recruitment of managers to run the sales teams planned for France, Italy, Germany and Spain. British Biotech hopes to launch its first drug, a treatment for acute pancreatitis, in early 1998, and to follow that in 1999 with marimastat, the cancer drug. Dr Kirby, 42, will join the company in two weeks' time.

Glencar to raise stake

GLENCAR, the Dublin exploration company, plans to become a majority shareholder in the Wassa gold mining project in Ghana by paying a little more than \$12.2 million for an additional 15.7 per cent stake. The company currently holds 45.2 per cent of Wassa Holdings Ltd, which owns 90 per cent of a large gold mining lease in the west of Ghana. The Ghanaian Government holds a 10 per cent stake. The other major holders in Wassa are Moydow (39.1 per cent) and the Emerging Markets Gold Fund (15.7 per cent). The plan will be put to Glencar shareholders at an extraordinary meeting before October 1.

Irish car sales advance

CAR sales in the Irish Republic jumped almost 4,000 in April compared with the same month last year, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Statistics Office in Dublin. The April total of 14,280 continues the steady upward trend established in earlier months. Overall vehicle sales were 16,900, up from 12,050 in April 1995. Ireland's buoyant economy and a scrappage scheme, under which owners of old cars who trade in their vehicles for new models get £16,000 off registration costs, is fuelling the increased demand.

Smith buys Dickinson

DAVID SSMITH, the packaging, paper and office products group, is buying John Dickinson Stationery, a UK producer of envelopes and stationery, from Biber Holdings, the Swiss industrial group, for about £18 million. Dickinson, which is based near Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, has annual turnover of £50 million but has traded at a loss throughout the 1990s. Its activities will be combined with Spicers, the Smith subsidiary engaged in the manufacture of stationery.

French rate unchanged

THE Bank of France left its official interest rates unchanged during a money market operation yesterday. The repurchase rate remains at 4.75 per cent and the tender rate at 3.55 per cent. The bank last reduced its five-to-ten day repurchase rate by 15 basis points to 4.75 per cent on August 1. The tender rate was set at 3.55 per cent on July 4. The operation came as financial markets speculate of a possible cut in German interest rates when the Bundesbank's policymaking central council meets on Thursday.

Headlam acquires rival

HEADLAM GROUP, the fabrics company, is acquiring Sundour Fabrics from Courtauld Textiles for £2.7 million. Sundour, with annual sales of about £13 million, operates in markets that are currently served by Headlam's existing fabrics business. Internal management accounts show net assets of about £3.5 million at June 30 and an operating loss of £83,000 for the six months to June 30. Headlam shares were unchanged at 277p yesterday.

Mannesmann ahead

MANNESMANN, the German industrial group, increased profits 27.6 per cent to DM180 million after tax in the six months to June 30. The company attributed the rise in the half-year profit to improvements in the telecommunications and auto divisions. Revenue for the period rose 2 per cent to DM15.5 billion. For the year as a whole, Mannesmann said it expected to register a slight improvement in operating profits above the DM911 million it reported in 1995.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CLAY and RABON, MARY MARGARET, late of 14, Newington, London, SE14 6NU, died on 14th August 1996. (Notice about £6,000.)

COHEN, HANNAH, late of 14, Newington, London, SE14 6NU, died on 14th August 1996. (Notice about £6,000.)

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LEGAL NOTICES

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TO THE CLERK TO THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

THAT I, THE CLERK TO THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

DO hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the

original as filed with me on the 14th day of August 1996

in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 1994

and that the same is available for inspection at the High Court of Justice

on the 14th day of August 1996

at the High Court of Justice

at the High Court of Justice

at the High Court of Justice

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at the High Court of Justice

Japanese trade surplus narrows

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S trade surplus fell by nearly 38 per cent in July as surging imports continued to shrink the country's trade imbalance. But the politically sensitive surplus with the United States showed only a modest fall.

Japan's overall customs-cleared trade surplus fell 37.7 per cent from a year earlier to ¥504.03 billion (about £3 billion) last month, while the surplus with the US fell 4.5 per cent to ¥16.71 billion.

Economists said the figures, which were in line with expectations, confirmed a well-established trend of rising imports. But the scale of the shrinkage in the surplus was

less dramatic than in some recent months, as a fall in the value of the yen has helped exports to pick up pace.

Jesper Koll, head of research at J.P. Morgan in Tokyo, said: "Basically the number is very good. It shows that imports continue to be sucked into the Japanese economy. However, what you are starting to see is that Japanese exports are being pulled higher by one year of yen depreciation."

This was the twentieth consecutive month of year-on-year decline in the overall surplus and seventeenth consecutive month of decline in the surplus with the US.

Banks feel the heat as new cards launched

Shops site enters plastic war

By ROBERT MILLER

A CREDIT card war is set to flare up as high street banks battle to hold market share in the face of an onslaught by a new generation of lenders.

Another two credit cards were launched yesterday, with Lakeside, the largest shopping centre in the South of England, offering its own Visa card, and Royal Bank of Scotland linking up with American Airlines to promote the Royal Bank AAdvantage MasterCard.

Fernando Agos, an analyst at Datamonitor, the management consultancy, says in a "UK

credit card market is diversifying. Although profitable niche markets exist for major issuers, they are losing too large a share of the mass market and a stronger response to the price war initiated by new entrants is inevitable.

He adds: "NatWest's deal with Tesco offers it access to a large customer base, protecting the economics of scale it needs to compete in the credit card market in the long-term."

Datamonitor says that new entrants such as Aldi and

Bank and Beneficial Bank have gained a significant market share from the high street bank issuers with no-fee, no-frills, low interest credit cards. By operating from low-cost sites, concludes Datamonitor, they make use of affinity groups and partnerships with non-financial services companies to attract new clients.

According to the Association for Payment Clearing Services the number of cardholders has risen to an historic peak, with

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia	1.26	1.26
Austria	1.26	1.26
Belgium	1.26	1.26
Canada	1.26	1.26
Cyprus	1.26	1.26
Denmark	1.26	1.26
France	1.26	1.26
Germany	1.26	1.26
Greece	1.26	1.26
Hong Kong	1.26	1.26
Ireland	1.26	1.26
Italy	1.26	1.26
Japan	1.26	1.26
Netherlands	1.26	1.26
New Zealand	1.26	1.26
Norway	1.26	1.26
Portugal	1.26	1.26
Spain	1.26	1.26
Sweden	1.26	1.26
Switzerland	1.26	1.26
Taiwan	1.26	1.26
USA	1.26	1.26

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as reported by Barclays Bank

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Notaries are subject to continuing education requirements by 2002 and two days per year.

Exchange reviews progress of junior market Tokyo joins the real world Costain in trouble over rescue package

Making sure the AIM is true

WHEN the Stock Exchange set up the Alternative Investment Market more than a year ago, the idea was to avoid a crook's playground where spivvy second-rate brokers peddled fly-by-night companies to greedy and over-credulous investors.

We have not got to that state of affairs yet. But the Exchange is going to have to take some swift remedial action if it is to be avoided, and the Exchange's record on swift remedial action is not a good one. The idea behind AIM was that the escalating cost of gaining a main market listing (£500,000 at least, had put this beyond the purses of most small companies. This cost had been soaring as the requirements of disclosure, verification and the other legal hoops became more onerous. At the same time, the Unlisted Securities Market, was on Death Row, killed off by Euro-legislation. The various alternatives, such as trading shares on a matched bargain basis, had been discredited.

There is a crying need for a form of listing for smaller companies with little track record and few profits as yet, but possibly world-beating ideas that need funding. Venture capital is too expensive a route. A kindergarten ought by rights to be unaffected by turnouts on the main

market, sophisticated investors being more concerned with long-term value than where their investments might be a month or two hence.

In the event, regulation of AIM was loaded onto brokers or other financial advisers bringing the company to market. If they felt all was well and went ahead, they put their reputations on the line, and this would keep down costs to their clients.

Unfortunately what has happened is that large brokers such as BZW and UBS, having by now used AIM to find homes for existing clients where needed, are no longer interested. The risk to their reputation is too high, the fees too small. This has left the field clear for the smaller players, and some have acquired unenviable reputations. Many have large private client lists they pillage ruthlessly for new victims. Some prospectuses sent to these bear none of the prominent "wealth warnings" that had been proposed.

Furthermore, one small broker has the distinction of running into some sort of trouble over fully half the companies it

has brought to market, or at least attempted to — one listing had to be pulled when a regulatory authority took an unhealthy interest in earlier share dealings. The Stock Exchange is conducting a review into AIM over the next couple of months, and will shortly name an outside consultant — described as a "very senior level corporate financier". The Exchange has the right to ban an adviser from AIM sponsorship. This would mean the listings of all its clients would have to be withdrawn, if alternative sponsors cannot be found. A few condign disqualifications would now seem in order.

Corporate loyalty — Japanese style

EXTRAORDINARY times in Japan, where six years of economic hardship are requiring even the banks to open up to the outside. The latest set of trade figures shows that the recent depreciation of the yen that has been official policy to boost the economy has had little effect on Japan's balance of trade.



Despite a 38 per cent fall in the total surplus, there was no real decline in the politically sensitive trade gap with the United States. This is important, because it was this that created fierce trade rows and helped to send the yen soaring in the first place. This was to the benefit of the American car industry. Now Japanese car exports are rising again, and exports generally picking up across the economy.

Local firms are indeed sourcing from outside Japan or moving factories offshore for cheap labour and then bringing the goods back into the country. This may boost imports, but exports still rose by 17 per cent in value terms in July.

One of the odder effects of

economic purgatory has been on that curious cat's cradle of cross-shareholdings that has acted as much as cultural differences to keep corporate Japan immune from outside raiders. Japanese corporations are having to sell off these stakes to make up for the falling value of assets like securities and property.

The explicit purpose of these holdings has always been to protect companies from hostile takeovers, maintain close business ties and support share prices. Now a study by Daiwa Research says the number of shares held in cross-shareholding deals totals 49 per cent of all outstanding shares in listed companies. This may seem staggeringly high, but it means the figure has dropped below 50 per cent for the first time since 1972, having peaked at almost 56 per cent in 1987. The selling began three years later, and the banks have been in the vanguard. They had traditionally avoided such sales because of the risk of losing clients.

So while Japanese firms respond by firing workers and hiring cheap labour overseas,

they are busy being sold down the river by their banks. So much for corporate loyalty Japanese-style. Welcome to the real world.

By-passing the market's rules

THE protestors trying to block the Newbury by-pass must be laughing so much at the predicament of its builder, Costain, that they are in danger of falling out of their trees. The once proud company is now threatened with losing its Stock Exchange listing.

Costain has successfully raised £74 million, but to get this away the group was willing to give three quarters of its shares to either the banks or a new-found friend, Intra Berhad of Malaysia, thereby flouting with sanctions from the authorities. Costain was able to persuade the Takeover Panel to allow Intra to go over 29.9 per cent without having to make a bid. One dissident Middle Eastern investor, the Saudi Arabian group Raymond, supported the financial restructuring but the other, Kharafi of Kuwait, has

become a real problem. Kharafi took up its shares and bought more to curb Intra's influence, leaving 77 per cent of Costain's equity in just three hands, a breach of the Stock Exchange's listing requirements.

Costain will be hard pressed to persuade Intra, Kharafi or Raymond to sell any of their holdings. It now must persuade the Exchange that there is enough of a market for the other 15,000 shareholders to make it worth retaining the listing. They are the ones whose interests are at stake. In sharp contrast to the situation on AIM, an over-exuberant application of the rules here will do nobody but the Newbury protestors any good.

Top Marks

MARKS & SPENCER has wisely put its hands up and come quietly over the snarl-up that has had customers billed twice for the same amount. The company could have followed the banks' example and argued the toss for months, but 40,000 sets of double debits might seem like 39,999 coincidences too far. Instead, Marks is blaming computer error. Is this the same sort of computer error the banks say can never happen, whenever anyone challenges a "phantom withdrawal" from one of their hole-in-the-wall machines?

Wall St stunned as Mandl quits top AT&T post

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

ALEX J. MANDL, the executive widely tipped to be the next chairman of AT&T, yesterday stunned Wall Street by revealing he is to quit America's largest long-distance telephone company.

Mr Mandl, 52, has resigned as president and chief operating officer of AT&T to join Associated Communications, a small but ambitious wireless communications firm that will develop high-capacity wireless networks in American cities.

Mr Mandl was the highest-ranking operations executive at AT&T, one of three reporting directly to Robert Allen, the chairman and chief executive. Some analysts believed Mr Mandl was earmarked to replace Mr Allen, 61, when he retires in 2000.

AT&T said the search for a successor would get underway immediately. The company was anxious to reassure investors that its ambitious demerger plans remained on track.

Last September, AT&T announced it would split in three, with the main AT&T becoming purely a communications service firm. It spun off its communications equipment business this spring as Lucent Technologies and plans to spin off NCR, its computer manufacturing unit, later this year. Yesterday, Mr Allen said those plans remain on schedule.

Mr Mandl, who joined AT&T in 1991, played a leading role in the \$11 billion acquisition of McCaw Cellular Communications, the nation's largest cellular company, in late 1994.



Mike Smith, chief executive of Argos, saw interim profits bound 45 per cent to £31.8 million as he concentrated on offering value for money

Argos unveils plans for Dutch drive as interim sales soar

BY PAUL DURMAN

ARGOS, the catalogue retailing group, gave more details of its planned expansion into The Netherlands as it reported exceptionally strong first-half sales and profits.

The company intends to open its first Dutch store in 1998. It plans to spend £6 million over the next 16 months as it recruits 50 Dutch staff, acquires premises, and modifies its catalogue and retailing system to meet the Dutch market.

Argos was reporting a 45 per cent jump in interim pre-tax profits to £31.8 million. This was on the back of an 18 per cent increase in sales to £561 million. Argos has main-

tained this sales growth into the first weeks of the second half. What really impressed the City was the 11.1 per cent increase that Argos achieved in first-half like-for-like sales, which strip out the benefit from new store openings.

Tony Shire, BZW's retail analyst, said: "They have obliterated the profit forecasts. The like-for-like is just phenomenal." Nick Bubb, at Mee's, said Argos had produced "fantastic figures". The shares rose 14p to 757p, valuing Argos at more than £2.1 billion. City profit forecasts for this year were increased to £150 million or more.

The Dutch move follows the

opening this year of the first three Argos stores in Ireland. Sales are running ahead of expectations and Argos will increase the number of Irish stores to six by the end of next month.

Mike Smith, Argos chief executive, said the high margin retail environment in The Netherlands made the country more attractive for catalogue retailing than some larger European markets. With Argos intending to supply 3,000 of the 5,000 Dutch product lines from the UK, the Dutch market's size and proximity also made it a better bet.

Argos attributes its rapid sales growth — much better

than other leading UK retailers — to its determination to offer value for money. Most of the 3,500 products re-included in the latest Argos catalogue are no dearer, and Mr Smith said, Argos has cut the prices of about 1,400 of them.

Operating profits rose even more sharply than the pre-tax total, by 63 per cent to £25.5 million. Pre-tax profits were held back by the loss of interest income on the company's cash pile that followed Argos's recent payment of special dividends totalling £126.8 million.

Argos is increasing its interim dividend by 32.5 per cent to 5.3p. Earnings per share were

46.5 per cent higher at 7.06p. In spite of the special dividend, Argos ended the half with £102.9 million in cash. Mr Smith said Argos remained interested in acquisitions in its areas of merchandise expertise: jewellery, consumer electronics, housewares and toys.

However, he said Argos is not talking to anybody at the moment, thus ruling the company out of Signet's sale of its H Samuel jewellery business.

Argos Direct, the home delivery operation, increased first half sales 41 per cent to £40 million.

Tempus, page 26

Life and pensions industry makes strong recovery

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE life insurance and pension industry is staging a strong recovery after languishing for several years because of the pension mis-selling scandal, according to new figures published yesterday.

Sales of new life and pension policies in the second quarter of the year totalled £4.6 billion, a 36 per cent increase on the corresponding period in 1995.

The figures, compiled by the Association of British Insurers (ABI), confirm a growing trend within the industry. Recent results from the largest insurers have shown strong rises in life business, compared with tough trading conditions and falls in premium rates for general insurance.

According to the ABI, premium income for new life insurance business, at £2.9 billion, was 36 per cent higher than in the corresponding quarter last year. New single premiums soared 40 per cent to £2.6 billion and annual premiums were up 8 per cent to £300 million.

Premium income for new individual pensions increased 35 per cent to £1.7 billion. Single premiums saw a jump of 39 per cent to £1.4 billion, while new annual premiums totalled £300 million, a rise of 18 per cent.

Mark Boleat, Director-General of the ABI, said: "These figures reinforce the signs of an upturn in new life and pensions business, which became evident towards the end of last year and the first quarter of this year."

"The industry can be encouraged that confidence in long-term saving, through the large range of life and pension products, looks to be gathering pace."

The ABI also revealed details of some of the fraudulent insurance claims for overseas medical expenses its members had received.

Following a crackdown, in-

surers discovered that a woman had submitted five claims within 18 months, each one for the loss of sight in her left eye. Among the "accidents" were a collision in a swimming pool, falling off a chair and being attacked while in Iran.

While in Spain, a holiday-maker made an insurance claim for the cost of an operation to remove his appendix. Investigations revealed that the account for the treatment was not genuine and that this was, in fact, the holidaymaker's 17th claim for an appendectomy.

Wace has designs on new plant

BY FRASER NELSON

WACE, the printing and imaging group, is spending £20 million on what it believes will be Britain's first design-to-production packaging plant. The 12-acre plant will be created by merging its labelling plant in Leicester with a nearby carton plant acquired in November.

As it returned worse-than-expected results for the six months to June 30, Wace admitted its recent rationalisation had not attracted sustainable growth.

Operating profits fell from £15.2 million to £10.1 million. This combined with the £800,000 cost for a US plant closure and a £3.2 million restructuring charge for new plant to force down pre-tax profits to £4.2 million (£10 million). The interim is unchanged at 1.85p. Analysts cut year-end forecasts from £22 million to £18 million.

Refuge life assets under attack as merger looms

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

REFUGE Assurance has been accused of short-changing shareholders as it prepares to merge with United Friendly, its fellow life insurer, to create a new company, United Assurance.

Perpetual, a leading fund manager and one of Refuge's largest shareholders with a 7 per cent stake, says Refuge's assets in its life fund are worth far more than stated in the merger document.

Neil Woodford, Perpetual's senior investment manager, is meeting both companies to challenge the £631 million assessment of Refuge's embedded value. Perpetual believes the figure is closer to £1 billion.

Mr Woodford, who is threatening to vote against the merger at a shareholders' meeting on September 9, claims the deal has been "put together in haste" and has accused the management in-



Cudworth: chief executive

making clear the size of expected cost savings after the merger.

John Cudworth, Refuge's chief executive, was not available for comment yesterday. Refuge and United Friendly said earlier this month that they were unsure how large the savings were likely to be. When pressed, they named a figure close to £15 million.

Refuge's pension fund and on the so-called "orphan" assets in one section of its life fund. He believes the full extent of the surplus should have been clarified with the Department of Trade and Industry before the merger was announced. He said yesterday that the merger document had also failed to take account of the growth in Refuge's new business figures.

He said: "Under the current proposals, United Friendly shareholders seem to benefit more from this deal, even though Refuge's new business is growing and United Friendly's is shrinking. I shall be looking for clarification from management."

The merging companies will have a market value of £1.5 billion, with 6.6 billion policies issued and £6.5 billion assets under management. Refuge's shares dropped 22p to 408p after the merger was announced on August 8 and have continued to fall further.

Profits lift for Taylor Nelson

BY FRASER NELSON

TAYLOR NELSON, the UK's largest market research group, yesterday returned the strongest interim results of its 29-year history.

The results were helped by Fashiontrack, the consumer clothing and footwear monitor launched last October, which achieved profitability six months ahead of schedule.

Tony Cowling, chief executive, said the grocery unit, Superpanel, was now its largest single product after a two-year investment programme.

Pre-tax profit was 12 per cent ahead at £4 million, on turnover, which rose by 12 per cent, to £424 million. Sales from its healthcare and marketing divisions both rose by 19 per cent, to £6.4 million and £4.7 million respectively. Revenue from its core consumer division rose by 9 per cent, to £19.4 million. Earnings were 1.23p per share (1.11p), allowing an interim dividend of 0.30p (0.25p) payable on De-



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THE QUEEN'S
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Visa tests the hackers

HOW do you tackle electronic fraud? Call in the experts. Visa International has hired professional hackers to try and crack a "foolproof" system for conducting financial transactions on the Internet.

Tests at Visa's offices in London and San Francisco will have a key bearing on the future of electronic banking.

Payment card providers hope to establish a benchmark system — Secure Electronic Transaction (SET) — as the industry standard for Internet dealing. Hans van der Velde, president of Visa's European operations, says none of the hackers has yet succeeded in cracking the system.

The first of the new cards is due in the UK next year.

Lloyds dilemma

WHEN Lloyds Bank announced it was taking over Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society and then TSB Group last year it was widely held that Sir Brian Pitman had an heir and a spare. But by early this year Andrew Longhurst was making it clear that he was no longer a candidate for chief executive, despite the success of the mortgage business. Now word reaches us from the offices surrounding the yellow linoleum on the executive floor of Lloyds's head office in Lombard Street that Peter Ellwood is not quite the international banker that the board wants to fill the role. It might be time for Sir Brian to get out his chequebook again to buy another company and a chief executive, otherwise



Sir Brian: another buy?

an outsider candidate may have to be appointed.

Crash course

HE'S BACK! Jeffrey Robinson, best-selling author of *The Laundrymen*, is back in print with *The Hotel* (Simon & Schuster, £15.99), which shadows life in the hallowed corridors of Claridge's. And a curious life it is, too — from the guest who handed over his watch as payment for his bill, to the visitor who requested an Indian elephant for a ride in Regent's Park. And if you experience guilt at removing the odd bar of soap or shampoo from your room — get this, Robinson tells of the guest who helped himself to an entire breakfast service, steadily removing cups, saucers, coffee pots and cutlery. The general manager foiled him by having his suitcases "accidentally" thrown down the stairs.

Cold facts

AS THE City sweltered yesterday and Argos produced pretty hot results, its stores were already into winter mode. The winter catalogue, launched in late July, is big on snowboots but has no hosepipe attachments and is short on swimwear. They will be available in January, no doubt.

DRIVERS on holiday in the remote parts of Finland ought to be careful. The Finnish police plan to start using a harpoon fired from the front bumper of police patrol cars which pierces the boot of a fleeing vehicle. As the police car brakes, the offending driver is forced to slow down.



Good times may be around the corner but confidence is taking a long time to return to consumers who lack job security and are fearful of negative equity

Silver lining of recovery is tarnished by caution

Alasdair Murray on the fundamental change in attitude of 1990s consumers

THE date on the invitation seems to have been changed several times and you are a little baffled by the "sold" sign outside the venue, but the noise coming from inside suggests that you have the right time and place. You tuck your rather battered car between the rows of gleaming "P" regs and wander in through the freshly painted front door. You advance through the crowded room, where everyone seems to be wearing conspicuously new clothes, carefully sidestepping the man from the Halifax who is trying to engage anyone who will listen in a conversation about house prices. On the far side of the room, you think you spy a smiling Ken Clarke, pausing between sips of a strong-looking cocktail to reset the CD to play James Brown's soul classic *I Feel Good*. Only a sombre-faced Eddie George lookalike seems not to be enjoying himself, standing alone and muttering something about "inflation" and how "it will all end in tears".

You know you too should be enjoying yourself; after all the party has been thrown in your honour. But somehow you just can't help feeling that something is not quite right. Ever since Norman Lamont rather optimistically spotted the "green shoots of recovery" four years ago, the return of the "feel-good" factor has remained an elusive goal. But it is only in the last few months that genuine evidence has begun to emerge that consumers are recovering some confidence.

The headline statistics are clear — retail spending is rising, house prices are rising, incomes are rising and unemployment is falling — leading some commentators to hail the start of a 1980s-style "shop till you drop" boom. But the numbers are often deceptive, concealing the patchy and fragile nature of the recovery. Retail spending is expected to show a rise again when the figures for July are published on Wednesday. But after June's 1.3 per cent jump, taking the annual rate of growth to 3.3 per cent, economists are predicting more modest growth for July. There is also plenty of evidence that despite the recent growth in spending prices remain under pressure in the high street, with the retailers continuing to discount heavily. Spending also appears to be concentrated on a relatively small number of areas: consumer durables such as electrical goods, clothing and footwear and domestic services which include nannies, child minders and cleaning services. Housing-related expenditure has improved but has hardly reached boom proportions.

Peter Warburton, UK economist at Robert Fleming Securities, believes that this patchy spending record is

partly because of the rather mixed improvement in incomes. On the surface, incomes appear to be rising at their fastest level since the late 1980s. Personal balance sheets improved by 9 per cent between the end of June 1995 and June 1996 — a rise of 6.4 per cent in real terms. But much of the gain derives from the booming stock market which boosts dividend payments and stock market-based investments. For most people these gains only register in their pension funds — which will hardly prompt a rush of spending. The increase in real household disposable income — excluding pension and life funds — is more modest. The figures also disguise the fact that real wealth is still recovering from a five-year period of decline — by 15 per cent between 1990 and 1995.

The other principal measure of people's wealth — average earnings — has also begun to register more positively in recent months. Average earnings growth measured 3.75 per cent in July. In contrast, the tax and prices index, which measures the impact of inflation and direct taxation, fell to 0.6 per cent, its

lowest level in recent years. This implies that real earnings growth stands at around 3 per cent.

But the tax and prices index is a slightly crude measurement which does not accommodate council tax or indirect taxation. Equally, much of the recent rise in pay can be ascribed to bumper bonuses paid out by companies to already high-earning staff off the back of a strong corporate performance last year. In contrast, figures published by the CBI yesterday point to pay rises in the manufacturing sector — traditionally most vulnerable to pay inflation — falling back in the second quarter.

Mr Warburton believes that the spending and income data point to a very mixed improvement in consumer wealth and confidence with only certain sections of the population faring particularly well. He says: "I think that the rise in spending is very vulnerable. Income growth remains surprisingly tight and much of it is coming from irregular incomes such as self-employment and bonuses."

Earnings were an important ingredient in the 1980s consumer boom but it was house-price inflation that really underpinned the growth in expenditure. Between 1986 and 1989, real directly held wealth soared 54 per cent. Almost all of this growth stemmed from the rise in house prices with liquid assets, such as stock market investments, actually falling £50 billion in the same period.

House prices are at last beginning to pick up and desirable residences are shifting fast. The Nationwide Building Society index of house prices is rising by a year-on-year rate of 3.8 per cent, expected to increase to the heady rate of 5 per cent by the end of the year.

But large areas of the market remain unaffected by recent price rises with analysts estimating that up to a quarter of the total housing stock will never benefit from a recovery. The housing market looks destined to be smaller and more focused in future.

The labour market tells a similar story. The headline figures show steadily falling unemployment — which stood at 7.6 per cent in July, its lowest level for five years. But the total number of people in work has actually fallen in the first part of this year, suggesting that many people are simply disappearing from the job market by taking early retirement or moving on to other benefits. There is also ample evidence that many of the jobs being created are part-time or short-term and hardly conducive to long-term spending plans.

The Henley Centre, the economic research consultancy, argues that the patchy and fragile nature of the recovery in consumer confidence hints at some longer-term shifts in consumer attitudes. Polls are finding even now that consumers, and especially those over 35, are surprisingly gloomy.

Stephen Radley, an economist at Henley, says: "In the 1980s people were spoilt. Income and house prices were rising fast and this set a yardstick. The Government had the benefit of North Sea oil and privatisation receipts which enabled it to cut taxes whilst increasing public expenditure."

But the Government can no longer juggle tax cuts and public spending so easily, and something will inevitably have to give. Just as people are feeling increasingly insecure about their jobs, they face a tough choice between some extra money in their wage packets or trying to preserve the state safety net. Spending tax cuts on sickness and unemployment insurance, to cover the growing gaps in provision, will not make the consumer feel good. For the moment, things might be getting slightly better, but being a consumer is just not quite as much fun as it used to be.

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Unemployment is declining yet so is the quality of the jobs available



JANET BUSH

Jordan placed on breadline

THINK back to the future that greeted Norman Lamont's announcement that he was imposing VAT on domestic fuel and you can imagine, if only dimly, the dismay of Jordanians faced with the overnight doubling of the price of bread.

The trigger for three days of violent rioting was last Tuesday's abolition of subsidies on bread. Subsidies on cattle fodder had already been removed some weeks ago as part of an International Monetary Fund "stabilisation" programme. The price of dairy products has risen 20 per cent. Bread has jumped from 12 cents a kilo to 26 cents a kilo.

According to the IMF's sister organisation, the World Bank, 15 per cent of Jordanians are estimated to be living below the most widely accepted definition of the poverty line. The poor spend half their income on food. Bread is their staple diet.

King Hussein has promised to deal with rioters with an iron fist and has accused disruptive foreign elements — easily decipherable code for Iraq — of whipping up discontent. Relations with Iraq, Jordan's most important trading partner until they fell out after the Gulf War, deteriorate further.

Israel, with whom Jordan signed its historic peace agreement in 1994 amid hopes of a lucrative peace dividend, looks on nervously. Jordan, a political oasis in the livid Middle Eastern landscape, threatens to become a source of instability.

To a British person, far better off than the average Jordanian and enjoying the comparative luxury of VAT exemption on food and items deemed necessary in a civilised society, such as books, doubling the price of bread may seem an astonishing move. It is certainly a blunt and punitive instrument in a country classified by the World Bank as lower middle income.

Jordan will point to the gains that it expected to accompany the pain. It is calculated, on the simplest level, that the rise in bread prices brings Jordan a third nearer to the fiscal targets set by the IMF. When those are met, the hope is that more IMF and World Bank money will be forthcoming and, with the IMF quality stamp in place, more foreign capital. The multilateral lenders will argue, as al-

ways, that those countries that embrace the most radical market liberalisation will see the swiftest rewards as the economy's natural dynamism is unleashed.

It is true that radical shock therapy has yielded dividends elsewhere. Peru, under the IMF's tutelage, removed all subsidies one day in 1990. Prices exploded, the population's protein intake dropped 30 per cent in four months, cholera broke out. But in five years Peru's inflation rate fell from more than 7,000 per cent to 10 per cent, and the major macro-economic indicators became healthy enough to persuade the Paris Club of creditors to reschedule Peru's debt. Arguments about the widening gap between rich and poor still abound but the IMF can claim limited vindication.

The question remains whether Jordan should be a candidate for the toughest kind of emergency measures. Peru was a basket case in 1990. Jordan was close to it in 1989, when the dinar collapsed, the banking system went into crisis and Jordan defaulted on some \$8 billion of debt.

But under a five-year IMF programme, Jordan has done well. Inflation has fallen from 16 per cent in 1990 to around 4 per cent now. Its budget deficit has declined from 18 per cent of gross domestic product in 1991 to around 4.5 per cent now. Investment is high, exports are growing.

It seems inconceivable that hiking the price of a subsistence food was the best option for making further progress. There must be other, far more substantial savings to be had. An obvious source of relief would be some serious write-offs of Jordan's \$5.9 billion of foreign debt. Or the World Bank could tie future loans to cuts in the profligate spending of the bureaucratic elites.

The Bank itself argues that fragile economic progress can only be built on if the harshness of change is mitigated and the democratic consensus preserved. How useful is another couple of percentage points off the budget deficit if public order collapses? The Jordanian bread riots may be another case of long-term progress being compromised by foolish short-term decisions made under the pressure of unrealistic IMF deadlines.



King Hussein meets one of his soldiers in riot-torn Jordan

BUSINESS LETTERS

BA alliance is one way to maintain UK's position as a leader in the world aviation industry

From Gwyneth Dunwoody MP

Sir, I have been interested to see the ongoing correspondence from British Airways and Virgin Atlantic regarding the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines.

The widespread concerns about the consequences for

competition of the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines is understandable. However, after careful consideration I believe, as did the majority of the Transport Select Committee, that there was no merit in a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The way forward is the introduction of the independent tribunal proposed by the Department of Transport, which would provide a speedy and effective means of policing competition by ensuring that competitors would not suffer as a consequence of any abuse by the proposed alliance and, indeed, any future alliances. The tribunal would also offer a mechanism to look after the consumer's interests.

According to many of the airlines who submitted evidence to the recent Transport Committee inquiry, their demands could be met with reasonably modest increases in the slot allocations at Heathrow. This small increase could be accommodated by the increase in slot capacity already identified.

We need urgent consideration of the introduction of mixed-mode operations at Heathrow, which would also provide a further ten slots per hour. Whilst not underestimating the environmental considerations of such a move, a public consultation exercise is needed.

Both the airline industry and the travelling public benefit from fair competition in the aviation market. The key aim must be to ensure that the major UK carriers are able to compete against their foreign counterparts.

The trend towards the concentration of the aviation sector is set to continue and will be accelerated following the full liberalisation of the aviation market by the European Union in 1997. The proposed alliance could also stimulate similar deals between other carriers.

An alliance between British Airways and American Airlines is one way of ensuring that the UK aviation industry does not lose out and ensures that the UK maintains its position as a leader in the world aviation industry.

Only then will we protect the thousands of UK jobs reliant on its success. Yours faithfully,

GWYNETH DUNWOODY, MP, Labour, Crewe & Nantwich, Senior Member Transport Committee, House of Commons.

The choice now on interest rates

From Mr W. R. Eyres

Sir, The boom in retail sales and consumer credit reported in your August 9 edition means there is little justification for a further drop in interest rates. Virtually the only argument left for one is the slackness of manufacturing output.

On past experience, however, cheaper credit now would be more likely to intensify the consumer boom and finance

property speculation than lead to a rise in manufacturing activity and investment.

The case for a rise in interest rates now, as put by the Charterhouse group (*The Times*, August 7) is that a stitch in time, so to speak, would save a 9 per cent rate next year. It is a reasonable choice.

Yours faithfully, RONALD EYRES, 27 Grove Terrace, NWS.

Evidence of changing times at the Bank

From H. M. Gadsby

Sir, When Lord Cromer was at the Bank it was respected and he was the Governor. The present incumbent might be called its chairman, but regrettably, the respect has long since evaporated. Before the disastrous so-called Big Bang, one might be asked to let the Bank know if he came across

anything which they might like to know. I suppose everyone is now so glued to their "screens" that they fail to notice what, for instance, Messrs Barings were up to! Yours faithfully, H. M. GADSBY, Hanger Down House, Tortington, Arundel, West Sussex.

Modest falls at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	Alcoholic Beverages				100	100	Alcoholic Beverages			
101	101	Alcoholic Beverages				101	101	Alcoholic Beverages			
102	102	Alcoholic Beverages				102	102	Alcoholic Beverages			
103	103	Alcoholic Beverages				103	103	Alcoholic Beverages			
104	104	Alcoholic Beverages				104	104	Alcoholic Beverages			
105	105	Alcoholic Beverages				105	105	Alcoholic Beverages			
106	106	Alcoholic Beverages				106	106	Alcoholic Beverages			
107	107	Alcoholic Beverages				107	107	Alcoholic Beverages			
108	108	Alcoholic Beverages				108	108	Alcoholic Beverages			
109	109	Alcoholic Beverages				109	109	Alcoholic Beverages			
110	110	Alcoholic Beverages				110	110	Alcoholic Beverages			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
111	111	Banks				111	111	Banks			
112	112	Banks				112	112	Banks			
113	113	Banks				113	113	Banks			
114	114	Banks				114	114	Banks			
115	115	Banks				115	115	Banks			
116	116	Banks				116	116	Banks			
117	117	Banks				117	117	Banks			
118	118	Banks				118	118	Banks			
119	119	Banks				119	119	Banks			
120	120	Banks				120	120	Banks			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
121	121	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				121	121	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
122	122	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				122	122	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
123	123	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				123	123	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
124	124	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				124	124	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
125	125	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				125	125	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
126	126	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				126	126	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
127	127	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				127	127	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
128	128	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				128	128	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
129	129	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				129	129	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
130	130	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				130	130	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
131	131	Diversified Industrials				131	131	Diversified Industrials			
132	132	Diversified Industrials				132	132	Diversified Industrials			
133	133	Diversified Industrials				133	133	Diversified Industrials			
134	134	Diversified Industrials				134	134	Diversified Industrials			
135	135	Diversified Industrials				135	135	Diversified Industrials			
136	136	Diversified Industrials				136	136	Diversified Industrials			
137	137	Diversified Industrials				137	137	Diversified Industrials			
138	138	Diversified Industrials				138	138	Diversified Industrials			
139	139	Diversified Industrials				139	139	Diversified Industrials			
140	140	Diversified Industrials				140	140	Diversified Industrials			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
141	141	Electricity				141	141	Electricity			
142	142	Electricity				142	142	Electricity			
143	143	Electricity				143	143	Electricity			
144	144	Electricity				144	144	Electricity			
145	145	Electricity				145	145	Electricity			
146	146	Electricity				146	146	Electricity			
147	147	Electricity				147	147	Electricity			
148	148	Electricity				148	148	Electricity			
149	149	Electricity				149	149	Electricity			
150	150	Electricity				150	150	Electricity			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
151	151	Electronic & Elect				151	151	Electronic & Elect			
152	152	Electronic & Elect				152	152	Electronic & Elect			
153	153	Electronic & Elect				153	153	Electronic & Elect			
154	154	Electronic & Elect				154	154	Electronic & Elect			
155	155	Electronic & Elect				155	155	Electronic & Elect			
156	156	Electronic & Elect				156	156	Electronic & Elect			
157	157	Electronic & Elect				157	157	Electronic & Elect			
158	158	Electronic & Elect				158	158	Electronic & Elect			
159	159	Electronic & Elect				159	159	Electronic & Elect			
160	160	Electronic & Elect				160	160	Electronic & Elect			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
161	161	Engineering				161	161	Engineering			
162	162	Engineering				162	162	Engineering			
163	163	Engineering				163	163	Engineering			
164	164	Engineering				164	164	Engineering			
165	165	Engineering				165	165	Engineering			
166	166	Engineering				166	166	Engineering			
167	167	Engineering				167	167	Engineering			
168	168	Engineering				168	168	Engineering			
169	169	Engineering				169	169	Engineering			
170	170	Engineering				170	170	Engineering			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
171	171	Chemicals				171	171	Chemicals			
172	172	Chemicals				172	172	Chemicals			
173	173	Chemicals				173	173	Chemicals			
174	174	Chemicals				174	174	Chemicals			
175	175	Chemicals				175	175	Chemicals			
176	176	Chemicals				176	176	Chemicals			
177	177	Chemicals				177	177	Chemicals			
178	178	Chemicals				178	178	Chemicals			
179	179	Chemicals				179	179	Chemicals			
180	180	Chemicals				180	180	Chemicals			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
181	181	Distributions				181	181	Distributions			
182	182	Distributions				182	182	Distributions			
183	183	Distributions				183	183	Distributions			
184	184	Distributions				184	184	Distributions			
185	185	Distributions				185	185	Distributions			
186	186	Distributions				186	186	Distributions			
187	187	Distributions				187	187	Distributions			
188	188	Distributions				188	188	Distributions			
189	189	Distributions				189	189	Distributions			
190	190	Distributions				190	190	Distributions			

Modest falls at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
191	191	Food Manufacturers				191	191	Food Manufacturers			
192	192	Food Manufacturers				192	192	Food Manufacturers			
193	193	Food Manufacturers				193	193	Food Manufacturers			
194	194	Food Manufacturers				194	194	Food Manufacturers			
195	195	Food Manufacturers				195	195	Food Manufacturers			
196	196	Food Manufacturers				196	196	Food Manufacturers			
197	197	Food Manufacturers				197	197	Food Manufacturers			
198	198	Food Manufacturers				198	198	Food Manufacturers			
199	199	Food Manufacturers				199	199	Food Manufacturers			
200	200	Food Manufacturers				200	200	Food Manufacturers			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
201	201	Engineering Vehicles				201	201	Engineering Vehicles			
202	202	Engineering Vehicles				202	202	Engineering Vehicles			
203	203	Engineering Vehicles				203	203	Engineering Vehicles			
204	204	Engineering Vehicles				204	204	Engineering Vehicles			
205	205	Engineering Vehicles				205	205	Engineering Vehicles			
206	206	Engineering Vehicles				206	206	Engineering Vehicles			
207	207	Engineering Vehicles				207	207	Engineering Vehicles			
208	208	Engineering Vehicles				208	208	Engineering Vehicles			
209	209	Engineering Vehicles				209	209	Engineering Vehicles			
210	210	Engineering Vehicles				210	210	Engineering Vehicles			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
211	211	Leisure & Hotels				211	211	Leisure & Hotels			
212	212	Leisure & Hotels				212	212	Leisure & Hotels			
213	213	Leisure & Hotels				213	213	Leisure & Hotels			
214	214	Leisure & Hotels				214	214	Leisure & Hotels			
215	215	Leisure & Hotels				215	215	Leisure & Hotels			
216	216	Leisure & Hotels				216	216	Leisure & Hotels			
217	217	Leisure & Hotels				217	217	Leisure & Hotels			
218	218	Leisure & Hotels				218	218	Leisure & Hotels			
219	219	Leisure & Hotels				219	219	Leisure & Hotels			
220	220	Leisure & Hotels				220	220	Leisure & Hotels			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
221	221	Healthcare				221	221	Healthcare			
222	222	Healthcare				222	222	Healthcare			
223	223	Healthcare				223	223	Healthcare			
224	224	Healthcare				224	224	Healthcare			
225	225	Healthcare				225	225	Healthcare			
226	226	Healthcare				226	226	Healthcare			
227	227	Healthcare				227	227	Healthcare			
228	228	Healthcare				228	228	Healthcare			
229	229	Healthcare				229	229	Healthcare			
230	230	Healthcare				230	230	Healthcare			

HOUSEHOLD GOODS						http://www.ine...	
231	231	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	181	135
232	232	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	182	135
233	233	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	183	135
234	234	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	184	135
235	235	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	185	135
236	236	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	186	135
237	237	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	187	135
238	238	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	188	135
239	239	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	189	135
240	240	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	190	135
241	241	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	191	135
242	242	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	192	135
243	243	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	193	135
244	244	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	194	135
245	245	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	195	135
246	246	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	196	135
247	247	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	197	135
248	248	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	198	135
249	249	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	199	135
250	250	Household Goods	222	25	11.25	200	135

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■ VISUAL ART 1

A little mayhem in the park: Richard Wilson puts a characteristic stamp on the Serpentine Gallery



■ VISUAL ART 2

It's good to talk? The great telephone kiosk debate hots up, with a contribution in Legoland

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ POP 1

Heavy metal puts on a festive face at Donington, with an overblown appearance by the reconstituted Kiss



■ POP 2

... and a warmly received set by a notably leaner and healthier Ozzy Osbourne

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on Richard Wilson's 'demolition' of the Serpentine Gallery

Parts greater than the holes

Within a few weeks, the parkland tranquillity of the Serpentine Gallery will give way to mayhem. Funded by a £3 million lottery grant from the Arts Council, along with a further £1 million raised by its own enterprising campaign, an ambitious renovation scheme aims to expand and enhance the building's character. When it reopens in September 1997, the Serpentine will at last be equipped with facilities worthy of an outstanding gallery now enjoying its liveliest phase.

Turning a much-loved institution into a muddy building site is bound to upset its regular visitors. But Richard Wilson, staging the last show in the present gallery, helps to prepare us for the imminent upheavals. Nothing on view here is as breathtaking as his masterpiece 20:50, that oceanic expanse of sump oil flooding its space at the Saatchi Gallery with an ominous, eerily reflective blackness. Nor is there anything as hallucinatory as *She Came In Through The Bathroom Window*, where Wilson removed an entire wall-wide expanse of windows from Matt's Gallery and suspended it, at a disorientating angle, within the space. All the same, he reinforces his reputation as an agent of uncanny disruption before we enter the Serpentine.

The normally inviolate windows overlooking the front lawn have been punctured, at their centre, by the corner of a builder's cabin lodged inside the gallery. This jutting triangle forces its way out between the classical columns, directly beneath a lintel where the Serpentine's name is decorously announced in elegant gilt letters. The intrusion heralds the collisions to come within the gallery, as well as signalling Wilson's healthy refusal to let his adventurous imagination be limited by rigid architectural constraints.

Over the past decade, as an ingenious mini-retrospective of his drawings and models at Gimpel Fils reveals, Wilson has thrived on confounding the expectations we bring to particular spaces. He wants to shake us free from a lazy acceptance of the gallery's seemingly unshakable authority. At Gimpel Fils, the impeccable white purity of a 1970s interior has been disrupted by a diagonally positioned 25-metre-long wall where Wilson's exhibits are lodged in irregular niches. And at the Serpentine, a Grade II listed former tearoom occupying a fiercely protected landscape in Kensington Gardens, he has staged a heretical series of spatial invasions.

Although the show is called *Jamming Gears*, a title borrowed from the lyrics of a rock song Wilson plays on one of his truck-driving tapes, it begins cautiously. We enter the largest room first, where he has paradoxically restricted himself to a single modest intervention. The space is deserted, and the only sign of his presence is a neat circular hole cut out of the



An agent of uncanny disruption: the sculptor Richard Wilson stands in his tipsily tilted builders' cabin, accentuating the general expectation of impending collapse

floor. Although earth lies exposed and unruly at the bottom, flouting the smoothness of the floor-covering elsewhere, the hole does not disturb the gallery's placidity.

But it serves as a portent of the destruction in the room beyond. Here, an epidemic of holes spreads across the available surfaces. One is gouged out of the junction between floor and wall, while another punches its path right through the ceiling, disclosing its surprising hollowiness. A further hole, drilled higher up on a different wall, provides us with a voyeur-like view of the tiled ladies' lavatory next door. But the most disconcerting hole is found in the ceiling, where Wilson has bored through to the sky and left the aperture open. With typical chutzpah, the Serpentine director, Julia Peyton-Jones, has allowed Wilson to leave her building vulnerable to a sudden downpour.

So we become increasingly aware of the Serpentine as an institution whose apparent immutability can be undermined with ease. In the middle of the room, a

far greater disorder is caused by the tilted cabin dumped there without explanation. Circular lumps of masonry from the nearby holes have attached themselves to its walls, disfiguring the otherwise pristine paintwork. Coloured a bilious lime-green, this anonymous shed could hardly be further removed from the conventional notion of a sculpture. It is a boorish intrusion, and the ripsy angle of its steeply inclined floor only accentuates the general expectation of impending collapse.

Wilson's appetite for subversiveness extends beyond the exhibition spaces. In the bookshop next door, soon to be enlarged in the renovation scheme, another hole has been sliced out of the main shelf. Showing an equal lack of respect for critics, historians and philosophers, it carves through volumes by Fry, Gombrich, Gramsci and Hegel. The missing chunk has mysteriously ended up protruding from the tilted cabin's wall like a builder's trophy plucked at random from wholesale devastation.

Similar sheds will doubtless be erected outside the Serpentine next month, when the real work of

alteration begins. By bringing them inside, Wilson invites us to realise that the gallery will soon find itself completely overtaken by forces from another world. At the same time, though, he is mischievous enough to suggest that the heavyweight strength of the con-

witness a bizarre funeral. Hanging upside-down from chains held by a tomato-red fork-lift truck, the cabin looks as if it is being lowered into a grave. Or maybe a macabre resurrection is in progress, whereby the builder's shed emerges from its subterranean lair to take over the gallery. Either way, Wilson has produced a thoughtful and suitably ambiguous image of the changes soon to transform the Serpentine as a whole. The cabin's open door tempts us to jump down into the half-buried room, like rescuers helping passengers stranded in a broken lift.

Nobody will know, until the renovation is finished, quite how successful it has been. In that respect, Wilson's installation mirrors the uncertainty and sense of risk accompanying any such venture. In the final room, we come full circle by encountering the cabin whose prow crashes through the gallery's facade. From the outside it had looked ominous, promising further violence. Inside, however, an air of stillness prevails. Held above the floor by iron girders, the cabin seems to be floating in the otherwise empty space. A circular

lump of masonry has, apparently, hurtled like a missile from another room and embedded itself in a wall. It fails to shatter the overall feeling of calm, though.

All the same, the mood in this room is tinged with a potent sense of expectancy. It seems, in the end, to pose a question. Will the Serpentine of the future break through its boundaries and engage with the world outside, or will it retreat inwards, like the window now suspended so strangely near the centre of the room? Only the gallery's staff can provide an answer. Their determination to give the Serpentine a vigorous continuing identity will be demonstrated, throughout the next 12 months, by a series of major sculptural commissions on the lawn. But the true test comes later, and Wilson's coolly unsettling installation shows how alive he is to the challenges posed by the convulsions ahead.

● *Jamming Gears* is at the Serpentine Gallery (0171-723 9072) until September 15; *Formative Processes* is at Gimpel Fils (0171-493 2468) until September 14

Wilson's installation mirrors the sense of risk in the renovation

struction industry can suffer from unforeseen calamities. In the next gallery, a large proportion of the floor has been cut away, enabling his hired machinery to dig down to a considerable depth. If it had been left empty, the excavated area would have looked shockingly raw. But Wilson fills this new pit with another lime-green cabin.

Here, however, we seem to

A Kiss for the dying

An ailing staple of the heavy metal calendar, this year's Donington festival was sealed with a Kiss. The legendary New York glam rockers who sold nearly 80 million albums in the late 1970s have reformed their original line-up, reapplied the trademark face paint and revamped their flagging careers overnight.

Indeed, nostalgia ruled at this 50,000-strong gathering in the traditional heavy rock stronghold of the Midlands. Although there were some concessions to recent evolutions in the genre, such as brooding Brazilian thrash metal luminaries *Sepultura* and the rap-inflected American newcomers *Dog Eat Dog*, conservatism was the keynote. The older generation definitely called the shots.

Hence the prominent billing for Ozzy Osbourne, still slogging away nearly three decades after his heyday fronting local heroes Black Sabbath. Having overcome drink and drug problems, the singer looks his leanest and healthiest in years, no doubt bolstered by his youthfully energetic new backing band. With a set mostly consisting of old-fashioned but solidly melodic pop-rock ballads, Ozzy wisely stuck within his limitations and was warmly received.

Kiss actually performed two shows at Donington. The matinee was their comically overblown backstage press conference, a suitably operatic affair complete with smoke machines and full make-up. Arriving by helicopter and garbed in camp stage costumes straight out of a 1950s space film, these consummate

POP

Donington 96 Donington Raceway

showbiz professionals talked up their imminent set as if it were some kind of second coming. Consequently, anticipation was running high for the first Kiss show on British soil for nearly 20 years.

But, when it came, it was a severe anti-climax. Despite a thrillingly dramatic build-up involving a swooping helicopter and gigantic inflatable replicas of the band, Kiss were soon struggling to match their bark with musical bite. Singer Paul Stanley worked the crowd with lewd, hammy banter. Bass player Gene Simmons, speckled blood, belched fire, displayed his notoriously long tongue and soared skywards on highly visible wires. Lead guitarist Ace Frehley launched rockets from his instrument during a 20-minute solo.

But none of these cheesy pantomime stunts compensated for their lumpy, turgid, woefully tuneless songs. Even on their own terms, as pure mindless entertainment, Kiss failed resoundingly.

Ultimately, this year's Donington was another nail in the coffin, if not of heavy metal itself, then certainly of festivals dedicated to the genre in its pure form. This durable music has been pronounced dead many times, only to reinvent itself in exciting new forms. But this very versatility has probably been the undoing of events like this, as successful innovators in the field move on either to host their own mammoth shows or play at more generally accessible festivals.

Both Metallica and Rage Against the Machine have rescued past Donington gatherings from the doldrums, but this year both are testing their pulling power elsewhere. For all their history, Kiss simply lacked equivalent clout.

Despite rose-tinted endorsements from a new generation of grunge bands such as Smashing Pumpkins and Pearl Jam, Kiss remain bombastic relics of heavy rock's dark ages, as satirised in the film *This Is Spinal Tap*.

The music will doubtless revitalise itself again, but perhaps not in time to save Donington.

STEPHEN DALTON

Lines crossed, daggers drawn

DESIGN: They may only be telephone kiosks but they have sparked off a furious row, as Marcus Binney discovers

At last it's official. Red is a good colour for telephone boxes after all. British Telecom has done a 180° turn from its 1985 decision to scrap every red telephone box in the land and replace them with the patent glass version of a shower cabinet.

Not only are 15,000 of the classic red K2s and K6s to remain — those with the distinctive handkerchief domes designed by the architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Now BT is launching a new red domed successor, the KX. But the company is in trouble again, with no less august a figure than Lord St John of Fawley, the chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission. He describes the new version as "illiterate" and "visually incoherent", and in a letter to *The Times* last Tuesday he attacked BT "for its lack of concern for the public realm".

The wrath of the RFAC is the fiercer as the commission feels that it played a key role in the early designs. It encouraged the General Post Office (as it was then) to hold a competition, and it helped to choose the winner. It also encouraged the choice of pillar-box red for the new kiosks.

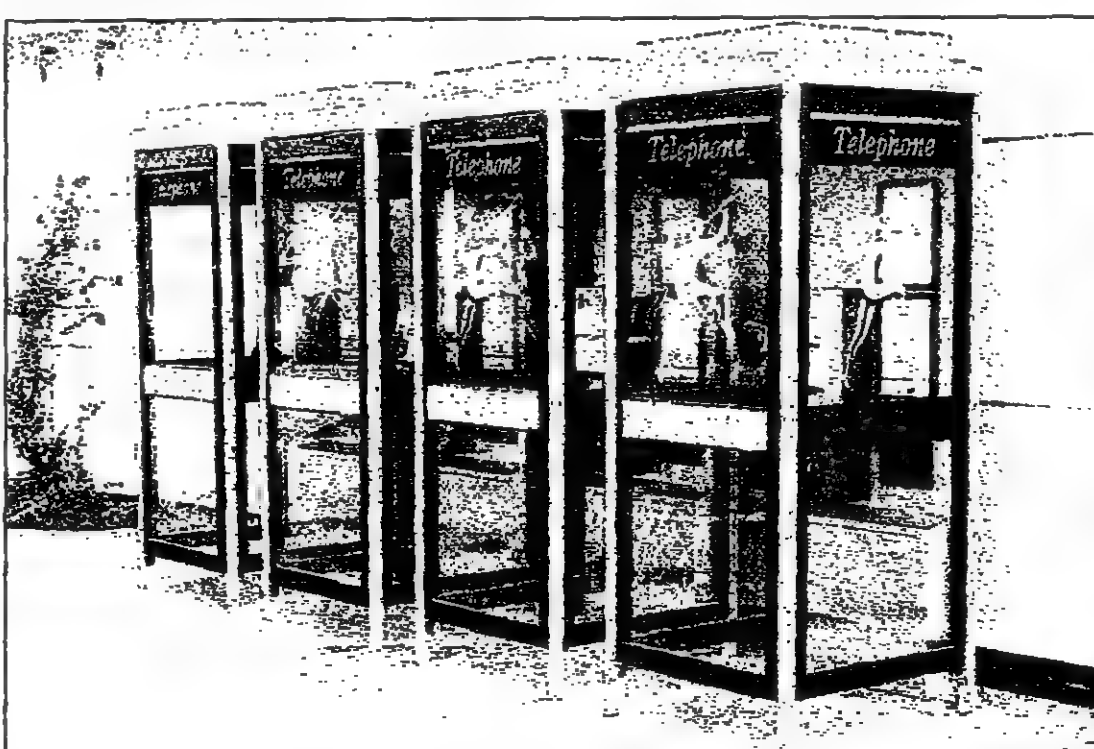
Lord St John is right. BT's latest version would earn pride of place in any museum of kitsch. It is not a new design, but rather a new design, clipped on plastic top. BT claims

that its users wanted a softer, rounder look. But it has ended up with an ice-cream topping: an anaemic white vanilla with a strawberry coating that is the colour of hot lipstick. Scott's solid red kiosks had an almost matt surface. BT's plastic tops are as shiny as a bald pate on a sweltering summer day.

Part of the subtlety of the classic K2 and K6 lies in the carefully judged mouldings which tend to emphasise the solidity of the kiosks. By contrast, the new version is as insubstantial as an illuminated shop fascia. BT will not have this. "The dome is made of GRP [Glass Reinforced Plastic] and is strong enough for people to jump on," says a spokesman, conjuring up a bizarre picture.

The biggest irony is that BT has produced — unknown almost to anyone, BT included — a very passable, not to say smart, new red telephone kiosk. This is to be found, of all unexpected places, in the new Legoland Park outside Windsor.

For Lego, BT has put an end to the mish-mash of colours on its standard boxes. It bids goodbye not only to the stainless steel, but also the virulent mauve and green used to distinguish card-phones from coin-phones. The only colours here are red and black, which always make a smart combination. The



BT's kiosks for Legoland near Windsor (left): much more pleasing than the "kitsch" new model (right) being introduced elsewhere?

slender square columns are red from top to bottom with a matching red stripe across the door.

Dignity comes from the substantial stepped top, entirely in red. Intriguingly, it is set back in just the same proportions as you might arrive at if you built a model of the box in Lego bricks. Very environmentally sensitive, then.

But in fact the new Lego box could stand handsomely in many city centres. Like the K6, it has something of the sentry box and would look well arranged in pairs, squares and rows. At Legoland, they stand in a disciplined line of four. True, they may not have the long life of Scott's passed-down kiosks, but then it is unlikely that

any telephone company will manufacture kiosks today that weigh in at more than a ton, as the K2 did.

Last week BT faced an assault in the courts from New World payphones, which had originally designed its own brand new red kiosk. Strange to say, New World's research coincides with BT's: red is a good colour for telephone boxes.

New World currently has 5,000 payphones in public places but these are indoors. Now it wants to take the battle to the street. Alas for New World: since Mercury introduced its distinctive blue and grey phone booths, the inner London boroughs have taken powers allowing them to demand traditional red boxes in sensitive

locations such as the royal processional route, Piccadilly Circus and Leicester Square.

So New World dutifully went off in search of traditional K6s not yet sold off to America and Japan. "We have claims on 62," says Mark Chitty. To placate BT, New World offered to paint them green, but BT took the company to court and the introduction of the new boxes is on hold at least until October.

The question today is whether we really need to restrict new phone boxes to a single design. By all means let us have a public competition. But let us have variety too.

In the Lake District, the Scott

kiosks were painted silver with only the glazing bars picked out in red (his original choice). In Hull, which has an independent telephone company, they were white. In the Republic of Ireland, they were green. Beside the Tower of London they are black to this day.

Gavin Stamp, in his excellent book on telephone boxes, shows versions in Gothic style and even kiosks built of stone. We tolerate London taxis and buses in different liveries. Why not telephone boxes? Competitions are one thing, but individual owners like Lego should be allowed to commission their own versions. There has to be scope for experiment in old locations as well as new.



■ EDINBURGH

The New York Philharmonic and Kurt Masur excel in two concerts at the festival



■ EDINBURGH

... while Michael Chance sings in Mark Morris's cool, beguiling staging of Gluck's *Orfeo*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ PROMS

Mahler's Fifth Symphony is given a superb interpretation by the Oslo Philharmonic



■ TOMORROW

Keeping the spirit alive: the Martha Graham Dance Company comes to Edinburgh

Masur takes a walk on the wildish side

MUSIC: Gerald Larner does the concert rounds from Evgeny Kissin to the New York Philharmonic

While it might just be possible to argue, from a limited point of view, that Brian McMaster's Edinburgh Festival is "tame" — in the sense that Salzburg is "tame" — it is scarcely up to Frank Dunlop, McMaster's immediate predecessor as director, to do it — as he did in a Scottish newspaper interview this week. If the music programmes had continued their decline into banality when McMaster took over five years ago, there would now be no discriminating audience in Edinburgh to hear them and no self-respecting musician to perform them.



hand, remains the rogue he always was. So it was disconcerting to hear him presented in Strauss's tone poem at the beginning of the first concert as a respectable citizen with a conscience for long-term structural virtues, little spontaneity and not much humour.

In the same programme Ned Rorem's Concerto for Cor anglais — written four years ago for the orchestra's excellent principal, Thomas Stacey, who most persuasively performed it on this occasion — confirmed what we have always known about that nostalgic instrument. So, at this stage in the New York Philharmonic experience, it was up to Beethoven's Seventh Symphony to make the aerobic effect, which it duly did in a faultless performance and disciplined interpretation from the very centre of the European tradition.

But it was in the Russian repertoire, in the second of the two concerts, that Masur and the New York Philharmonic were to be heard in full character and full colour. The elegantly executed horn solo with just a hint of St Petersburg vibrato in the slow movement of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, the not over-refined bassoon sound in the same work, the extraordinary control of the piccolo's long sustained plianissimo at the end of a cleverly constructed suite from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, the expressive viola, the eloquent tuba: these are examples of individual distinction in an ensemble which, while it lacks the clear string textures of an American orchestra at its best, is effortlessly cohesive and finely balanced overall. With Masur conducting, moreover, there is no danger of a performance becoming a mere demonstration of technical quality.

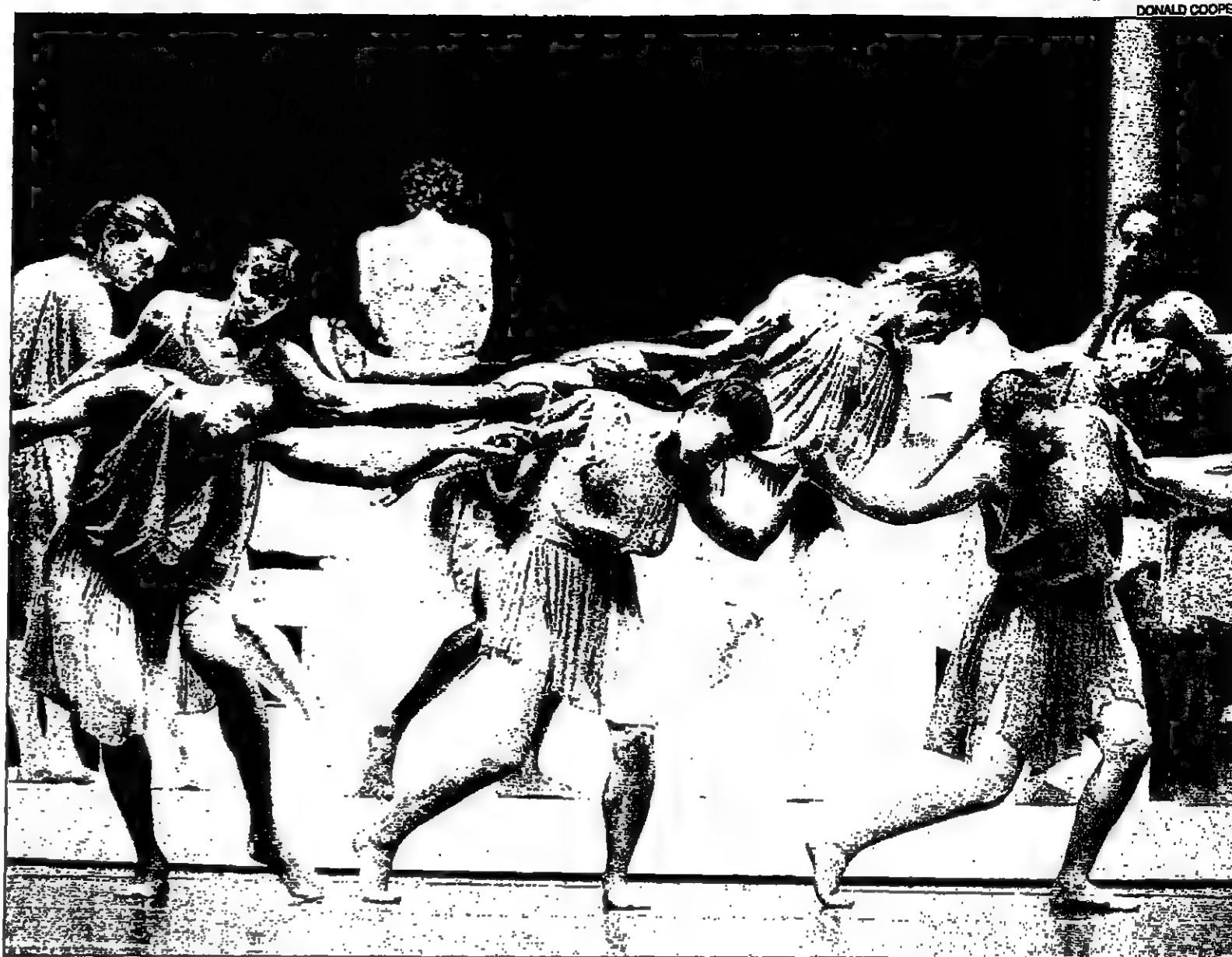
In the meantime, modestly tucked away in St Cuthbert's Church, the 18-part series of Haydn string quartets continues. It is not the ideal acoustic for chamber music but the atmosphere is helpful, the ticket prices conspicuously reasonable and — in defiance of the festival's obscurantist policy elsewhere — the early evening light from the stained glass windows allows the audience to consult its comprehensive programme notes or even to read its scores.

Perhaps the major value of these concerts is that, for those who choose to attend a number of them, they gather their own momentum and their accumulation of specialist experience. The *Emperor's Quartet* was far from emphatic in its interpretations of three of the Op 50 quartets but, in their context, they were revelatory performances. Concentration like that, on one small period, proved to be more effective than the more varied programme (from Op 20, 23 and 77) from the *Quatuor Mosaïque* the following day: the earlier works tend to get overshadowed by the more mature inspirations.

As for the Evgeny Kissin piano recital in the Usher, whatever one's assessment of his sensitivity to Schumann or Beethoven, his technique and physical strength at the keyboard are beyond question.



Kurt Masur rehearses in Edinburgh with the New York Philharmonic: no mere demonstration of technical quality



"One for dance fans more than music-lovers": members of the Mark Morris Dance Group mourn the death of Euridice in his production of Gluck's opera

Feet and voice in tune

Debra Craine sees opera share the stage with dance in *Orfeo ed Euridice* at the Festival Theatre

The choreographer Mark Morris is no stranger to opera. Neither is he a stranger to the sensibilities of 18th-century musical writing. As he has already shown with his dance adaptation of Handel's *L'Allegro*, he has a wonderful sympathy for the clarity and elegance of the period.

So Morris, who disdains anything artificial or florid in his dances, was already favourably disposed towards Gluck's prime directive — the "noble simplicity" of his great reform opera of 1762 — when the conductor Christopher Hogwood approached him to stage *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Hogwood's Boston-based period instrument ensemble, the Handel and Haydn Society.

And indeed, simplicity is the trademark of the *Orfeo* Mor-

ris and Hogwood bring to this year's Edinburgh Festival. From the cascading white drapes and unadorned columns of Adrienne Lobel's immaculate set to the purity and balance of the staging, a straightforward classical harmony invests every aspect of Morris's consummate vision. Nothing chaotic or emotionally fervent is allowed to disturb this cool and clean landscape, even when the "thousand pangs" of a grieving Orfeo would suggest otherwise.

Having a choreographer at the helm does pose Orfeo's main problem: what to do when not a lot is going on. Morris is adept at incorporat-

ing dance into the action, even where it is not called for, and is helped by his decision to place the chorus on risers on either side of the stage, thus freeing the main performing area for members of the Mark Morris Dance Group. This allows the singers to sing and the dancers to dance without any pretence at crossover.

The big dance numbers demanded by the score are self-contained — the ballet of the Furies at the start of Act II, the ballet of the Blessed Spirits that greets Orfeo on his arrival in the Elysian Fields — and full of a light-bodied, Isadoric fluency set within a courtly, formal patterning. The

dance is never immodest in its aims; even when it encloses Orfeo in its swirling midst at the gates of Hades, it never overwhelms his presence. But Morris also uses dance as a mirror to externalise Orfeo's trial. Orfeo's long lament for his lost wife in Act I is echoed physically (as well as musically) by a solo male dancer on the opposite side of the stage, supporting the text in analogous movements. But, while the duality of exposition is illuminating, the dancer does take one's eye away from Michael Chance's Orfeo in one of the opera's key passages. There were other musical

consequences on Friday night (this is a production that will appeal more to dance fans than to music-lovers). The balance between orchestra and singers was not quite right — can a chorus do its best from the sidelines? — and there were times when it was hard to hear the singers above the orchestra.

Chance's countertenor rang out strongly for the most part, particularly rich in the lower register. His Italian, though, was not as clear as it might be, especially so when contrasted with the superb diction of Christine Brandes's plucky and vocally lively Amor. As Euridice, Dana Hanchard has a voice not unlike Chance's and their big duet (staged like a minuet) was a high point, the shape of their singing meshing together beautifully.

MUSIC IN LONDON: Passionate Prom; plus a 17th-century night out

Dazzled by northern lights

The Oslo Philharmonic has been playing at the Proms for nearly a decade, and during that time its annual visits have become one of the most keenly awaited events of the entire season. Regrettably, the orchestra's promotion to the top league, music director Mariss Jansons, was unable to share the acclaim this year — his doctors have advised him to rest until October — but under Manfred Honeck they gave of their superlative best in Sunday night's concert, to the delight of a capacity audience.

Honeck, who is due to take up a post at Norwegian National Opera, seemed entirely at home in Rossini's overture to *The Italian Girl in Algiers*. From near ear-splitting pianissimo of the opening bars,

through the nimble pointed rhythms of the *Allegro*, to the historically brassy conclusion, this was a thoroughly theatrical performance.

A group of five of Grieg's best-loved songs followed, with Barbara Bonney, silver of tone, exquisitely tender of phrasing, the soprano soloist. Solveig's Song and the poignant *Lullaby*, both from *Peer Gynt*, were done with simple but heart-breaking eloquence, the orchestral accompaniment rendered with rare refinement. But it was *Spring* that drew from these players some of the most miraculously rapid string sonorities yet heard this season. The Prommers would not release them or Bonney for their well-deserved interval refreshment without an equal-

Oslo PO/Honeck
Albert Hall/Radio 3

ly intense encore.

The theatrical mode re-emerged for Mahler's Fifth Symphony — not inappropriately, considering the psychological drama of the work and the operatic career of the composer. Indeed, something about the profile of Honeck, passionately engaged, arms fully outstretched, conjured the familiar, caricatured image of Mahler himself on the podium.

So ardently rhetorical was the discourse of the opening funeral march — every phrase invested with life-or-death conviction — that one feared the intensity could never be maintained. Yet it was, and with some intriguing events on the way.

The tam-tam, already heard

to sinister effect along with dark-toned trombones in the funeral march, returned to lend an extraordinarily evocative colouring to the stormy second movement.

Honeck's unhurried tempo for the Adagio suggested neither quite the love song of Mengelberg's testimony, nor the infinitely protracted death-wish of tradition, but a deeply felt elegy, mingling contentment and tears. How the orchestra played throughout with such devastating accuracy and fierce commitment in what seemed like equatorial conditions remains a mystery. But they were faithful to the last, and the coda of the Rondo finale erupted in a glorious blaze of sound.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Were those the days, my friend?

Jiggery-Pokery
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Dryden's lament for that lost "heavenly harmony", followed by a chilling and totally silent period dance: the dancers heard no music, and their heavy costumes pinioned them to the earth.

Costume — or lack of it — was properly significant throughout the evening. *Love lies a-bleeding* was sung and danced in T-shirts and Doc Martens; the rhythm of *Lilliburlero* was set up by the slow, heavy tread of four marchers coming down the aisles dressed in black gaberdines and

balacabras ("By Christ and St Patrick, de Nation's our own..."). Yes, it was ever so.

But MZT's game with costume obscured neither the skill of their footwork (a patterning of English notated dances and anti-masque dances), nor the skill of their musicians (a string band, two lutenists and Mhairi Lawson's eloquent soprano). Purcell's *Fairest Isle* at last found a context of irony and nostalgia often lacking in performances in the composer's great anniversary year. And one of his minuets found itself metamorphosing into a 1920s tango.

The great merging of the centuries, though, was saved for the show's final coup. The consort music of *Mad Tom* gradually overlapped and became submerged by the horrific dustbin-lid cacophony of Preston's *Pound*, a "charivari" of "rough music", expressing the rage of the populace, as London's eternal beggins Bedlam coexisted, for a brief moment, inside and outside a South Bank of timeless spectators.

HILARY FINCH

Back in an old groove

JAZZ

ONE of the most evocative sounds of the 1960s was the integration of sitars and tabla with mainstream pop music. But even before George Harrison's experiments with the Beatles, the groundwork had been done by British jazz musicians through the group led by Indian-born violinist John Mayer and Jamaican alto saxophonist Joe Harriott.

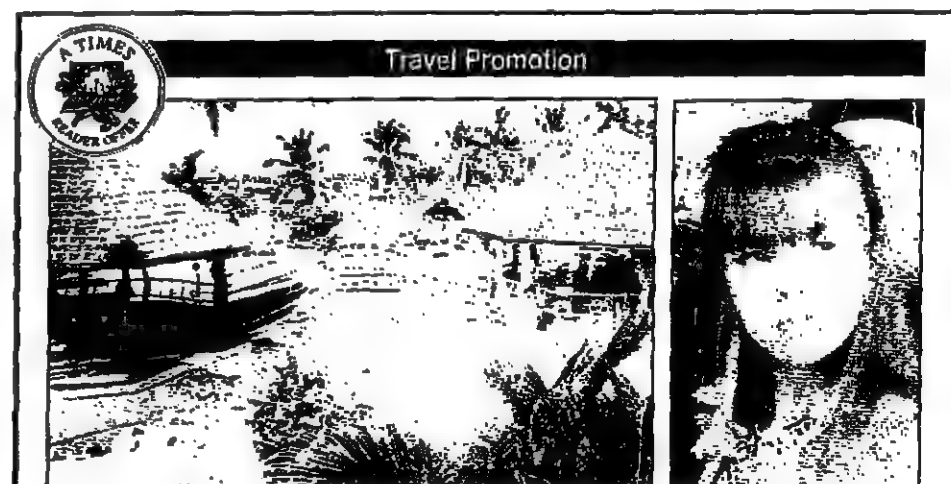
Indo-Jazz Fusions made three albums before Harriott's death in 1973. Even then, critics were divided about the success of fusing dance music with trance music, but Harriott's improvisation won the band a committed following.

Since the demise of the original group, Mayer has led a distinguished career as a composer and teacher. This year, though, he re-formed the band. Now, with a new album on the way, they played one of their first British gigs at the inaugural Ross-on-Wye International Festival.

In a marquee next to the Wye, the band went into *Raga Megha*, immediately raising all the old critical questions again. Without soloists of the calibre of Harriott to impose a dominant musical personality on each composition, the band placed more emphasis on the underlying conjunction of styles, and this quickly settled into a sequence of alternations between genres more than genuine fusion.

But, as the band settled, saxophonist Anna Brooks came into her own, and some exhilarating solos also came from Mayer's son Jonathan on sitar and pianist Steve Tromans.

ALYN SHIPTON



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LAW

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● LAW REPORT 18

Fiona Bawdon reports on one woman's long and costly struggle for justice

Nightmare that lasted 16 years

A prime aim of Lord Woolf's civil justice review is to cut the cost of going to court. However, if he had wanted to make a few savings closer to home, Lord Woolf could probably have spent a couple of hours talking to a mild-mannered former lecturer from east London and achieved exactly the same result. Patricia Eaton believes she could have helped the Master of the Rolls to find out the wrongs in the civil justice system that need to be changed: all from personal experience.

Miss Eaton has agreed to accept damages (thought to be more than £400,000) for breach of contract and negligence from the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA), which inherited the case from the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA), her former employer. It has, however, taken her 16 years, nearly 50 court appearances, reams of paper and tens of thousands of pounds to win her case.

Geoffrey Bindman, the London solicitor who later advised Miss Eaton, calls it "a nightmare case". Lord Woolf might well agree. After a decade and a half of procedural wrangling, the case was finally listed for a six-week trial at the High Court — at which she would be representing herself. On the morning of the hearing, Miss Eaton and her supporters duly turned up, as did the defendants, their lawyers — including a QC, junior barrister and a legal team from the City firm Eversheds — and witness loads of papers.

A few hours later, however, they were all trooping home. A settlement had been agreed at the door of the court.

After years of apparently believing that they could see her off, the defendants suddenly caved in and were prepared to pay what Mr Bindman calls a "good settlement" and to publish a 474-word apology in two national newspapers.

Despite her ultimate success, Miss Eaton characterises her experience as a paradigm of everything that is wrong with the legal system. What happened to her is only what can and does happen to other people — only more so, she believes.

Miss Eaton's brush with the legal system began in the early 1980s, when she won a defamation action against a fellow lecturer at Avery Hill College (now Greenwich University) in Eltham, southeast London. The defendant, Terry Horsley, declared himself bankrupt and still owes Miss Eaton £20,000 in unpaid legal costs.

Her situation was compounded by her employer's refusal to investigate her complaints about her defamer. Instead of which, the college removed Miss Eaton from part of her professional duties. Later, after the college had merged with Thames Polytechnic, Miss Eaton lost her job while Mr Horsley continued to be employed by ILEA. Miss Eaton has never worked since — and, at 62, is unlikely to work again. She has spent her years out of work, demanding redress for the abrupt end to a successful and much-loved teaching career.

As someone who has been at the sharp end of the court system, Miss Eaton is calling for almost exactly the same kinds of changes as proposed by Lord Woolf in his *New Landscape for Civil Justice*. He wants to make litigation less confrontational and to stop weaker parties being intimidated by those with deeper pockets. Miss Eaton is not alone in believing that the defendants in her case hoped she would be scared off.

Nick Raynsford, her MP, said of one letter sent by the defendant's solicitors, Jacques & Lewis (later taken over by Eversheds): "The tone is fairly offensive and intimidatory, and I take the gravest exception to their attitude towards my constituent and myself."

At one hearing the barrister referred to Miss Eaton as "this woman". When her then solicitor complained, the defence referred it to the Legal Aid Board, claiming this showed Miss Eaton's lawyers were wasting public money.

Peter Scales, LPFA executive chairman, insists, however, that the money was well spent — and adds that the quango has no plans to review its relationship with Eversheds or any other firm. He rejects



Patricia Eaton: she has personal experience of the failings of the civil justice system

suggestions that the case has cost the taxpayer about £1 million. "I don't know what all the costs were," he says. "All I can say to you is that our costs were nothing like that."

He refused to say how much the authority's legal bills had been. "I could tell you, but I don't want to," Eversheds declined to comment on any aspect of the case. But since the case's conclusion, it has been referred to the National Audit Office by Mr Raynsford, who has asked for an urgent investigation.

Miss Eaton insists that the case could have been settled on comparable terms at any time since 1990, saying both sides the expense of gearing up for trial. Not surprisingly, then, she applauds Lord Woolf's idea for introducing a plaintiff's offer to settle. Under this, a defendant who turned down a reasonable offer would have to pay punitive rates of interest

of up to 25 per cent in some cases.

Mr Bindman says that whatever Lord Woolf does, it will not be easy to encourage some lawyers to settle cases earlier. "Many solicitors are confrontational when they could do better for their client by a more conciliatory approach," he says. "After 35 years in practice, I find less willingness to compromise."

Mr Bindman blames the shift away from settlement on many law firms' increasing use of relatively junior solicitors to handle litigation. Such people do not have the experience or vision to negotiate, he claims, and, instead, blindly follow procedures, almost regardless of the ultimate cost to the client.

Rather than leaving tactics to the lawyers, clients need to be more closely involved in what is being done in their name, he says. That is why he singles out Lord Woolf's proposal to encourage the parties — rather than their lawyers — to sit around a table.

This, Miss Eaton says, is what she wanted to achieve all

along, resorting to court action only when it proved unsuccessful.

Overall, however, Mr Bindman is not optimistic that the reforms will prevent another Patricia Eaton being put through the legal mill for years on end. Something rather more radical may be needed, he believes. He adds: "I imagine we might achieve just as good a result if we got rid of all formalities and brought the parties together in front of an arbitrator who would decide the case on the spot."

Easy access to the Bar — as there once was

The Bar's new *pro bono* unit, where barristers will take on "deserving cases" without charge, is seeking a relaxation of the rules so that members of the public may approach its barristers direct, without having to go through a solicitor first.

The logic behind this idea is not likely to be well understood by clients of the Bar who do have to pay their fees. It will be yet another anomaly in the Bar's rules.

At present a client abroad can contact a barrister in England and Wales directly, but clients in England and Wales cannot. He or she must first see a solicitor. Members of the Institution of Electrical Engineers can contact the Bar directly — one of the group of professions which, in recent years, has been granted the right of direct access — but not members of the Institute of Gas Engineers. And North Yorkshire Probation Service can deal with barristers direct — but not North Yorkshire Police. And barristers can be e-mailed from Calais but not from Dover.

Rather than adding anomaly to anomaly, it would be simpler if the rule were scrapped completely and barristers were allowed to deal directly with any client they chose. Whenever any such suggestion is made, the Bar Council has a fit of the vapours and claims that no barrister wants to deal with the public directly and that any change would destroy the most ancient and sacred practices of English law. The first argument leads to the obvious question: why is a prohibition necessary if nobody wants to do it, anyway? Yet most barristers do seem to believe that the rule against direct access is so ancient that when the first barrister crawled out of the primeval slime he was followed (at a suitably respectful distance) by a solicitor handing out briefs. The reality is different.

For centuries, barristers were contacted by their clients directly as well as via solicitors, attorneys, proctors, scriveners etc. Barristers had free choice in the matter and in the case of *Bennett v Hale* reported in 1850 it was confirmed by Lord Campbell, the Lord Chief Justice, that there was no rule of law preventing a barrister receiving his instructions directly from a client. That judgment was in the Court of Queen's Bench, now part of the High Court. It has never been overruled.

During the time that most 19th-century barristers practised on a referral basis it was an entirely personal choice and some barristers did deal with clients directly. One barrister called Kennedy practised for a number of years in Birmingham advertising

his services in the local press as "dispensing with the unnecessary expense of a solicitor". In *Kennedy v Broun* (1862) it was confirmed that he was perfectly entitled to practise in this way.

However, *Kennedy v Broun* also confirmed that a barrister could not sue his client for his fees and that decision had the effect of discouraging most barristers from following Kennedy's example. If instructions came via a solicitor, the solicitor was professionally obliged to pay counsel's fees. The solicitor-barrister division as we understand it therefore arose not as a great decision of professional principle but simply as the safest way for barristers to ensure that they got paid. The client, of course, ended up paying two sets of fees.

Direct access did not, however, die out completely. The 1895 edition of *The National Encyclopaedia* noted that barristers were frequently instructed directly in criminal cases and cases in the County Court and the 1908 edition of *Halsbury's Laws* noted that there was no rule preventing barristers dealing with the public directly: it was merely a matter of personal etiquette.

Despite this clear legal opinion, the Attorney-General in 1888 decided that it was professionally improper for a barrister to undertake contentious work without a solicitor. In 1953 the Attorney-General extended this "rule" to cover non-contentious work as well. So the "rule" was not laid down by the judges or the profession but by a government minister. The Bar as a whole has never voted on the issue. The rule is legally questionable and has existed for only 40 years.

In *Bennett v Hale* Lord Campbell said that "the etiquette of the Bar is one thing; a practice which is to bind the world is another", and he was right. The Bar Council is entitled to want barristers to receive instructions via solicitors, but it is not entitled to make it a binding rule. Whether clients and the administration of justice are best served by barristers receiving instructions through solicitors is a matter on which there are valid differences of opinion.

Even if the overwhelming majority of barristers wants to receive instructions via solicitors, that is still no reason to make it compulsory. Barristers as individuals should be free to choose how they as individuals wish to practise their profession. Free choice, not restrictive practices, is the real tradition of the Bar.

● The author is a barrister in private practice.



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Campaign adds up

THE image of lawyers cannot be all bad. Foote, Cone & Belding is an advertising agency famous for its ads for Molson beer, Orangina, Pledge furniture polish — and, er, having Lewis Silkin, the law firm, as its legal adviser. Not the type of glamorous client agencies like to boast about. Roger Alexander, Lewis Silkin's senior partner, is starring in 60-second radio ads to promote the agency (punchlines: "FCB: Honest, decent, truthful, successful — and legal").

Rachel Broster, FCB's PR manager, describes the ads as a "tongue in cheek poke at the industry's tardiness in recognising the agency's renewed success in recent months".

Did Roger ("Take One") Alexander charge his usual fee for being in the ad? No comment, says Ms Broster.

Likely future

BARRISTERS will be able to grill Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, for the first time at an open forum moderated by Vincent Hanna

INNS AND OUTS

at the annual Bar conference on September 28.

Lord Irvine, who is giving the main speech at the one-day conference, is expected to use the platform to outline the policies likely to be adopted by Labour if it wins the next election. The conference has already attracted 300 participants and looks like being a sell-out.

Coincidentally, details are from Blair Communications & Marketing (0171-722 9731).



Lord Irvine of Lairg: grilling?

Fusion of firms?

AS competition between big accountancy firms and the top law firms reaches record levels of ferocity, leaders of the Law Society and the Bar are to use the opening of the legal year in October to launch a debate on whether to allow mixed partnerships between accountants and lawyers — or, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

But who will join whom? Ross Harper, president of the International Bar Association, said at the recent American Bar Association conference in Florida that lawyers have only months in which to respond to the threat that accountants could take over the legal profession.

Tony Gilling, president of the Law Society, is taking a lead. Lawyers, he says, should accept the reality of mixed partnerships. And John Randall, the Law Society's head of professional standards, contends that the current ban on mixed partnerships prohibits outside investment in law firms. If law firms are to

compete, they must, he believes, be able to raise outside capital.

● FEES are still a touchy and secretive subject for most lawyers. But *Shoosmiths & Harrison* is publicising its annual performance. While some of the top City law firms still refuse to confirm their gross fee income, *Shoosmiths* has said that its own income is up from £24.6 million to £29.5 million and that 126 new staff have been recruited.

Just a quickie

IN THE wake of Lord Woolf's proposals to speed up civil justice, lawyers are falling over themselves to prove how speedy they can be. Edge & Ellison recently acted for the Football League in resisting an action by Stevenage Borough Football Club to gain admission to the league. The case, from writ issue to judgment, took 12 weeks — half the time Lord Woolf envisages for disputes of up to £10,000.

John Aucott, a partner, says: "This shows that with sufficient energy and goodwill on all sides, the present system can and does work."

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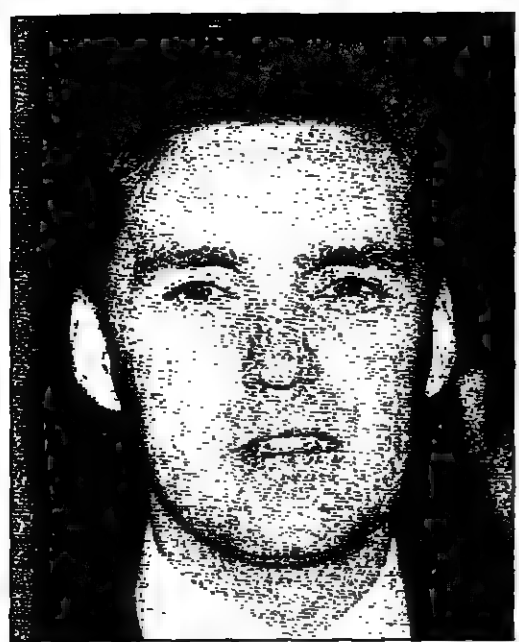
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Geoffrey Wildsmith, left, who, two and a half years after being seriously injured, began communicating about how he had been attacked, and MPs Alan Milburn and Doug Hoyle



Murder, however long it takes

The abolition of an ancient Act will pose the dilemma for the Attorney-General of whether to prosecute, says Gary Slapper

This summer, 700 years after it was first the subject of legislation, the "year and a day" rule in English law was abolished by the Law Reform (Year and a Day) Act. The new law comes into full effect this week.

The old rule stated that a person could not be convicted of murder where the death in question occurred more than a year and a day from the moment of the fatal injury. The rule also applied to manslaughter, abetting suicides, infanticides, causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink, and aggravated vehicle taking causing death.

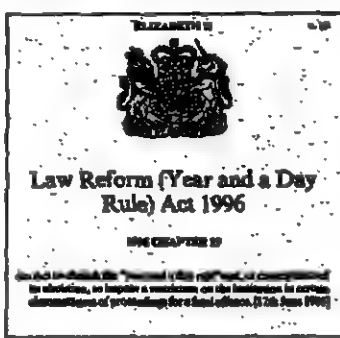
Michael Gibson was brutally beaten on the night of his twenty-first birthday by a thug in an unprovoked attack in Darlington in 1993. He suffered very serious injuries and brain damage, but was revived and went on living in a persistent vegetative state (PVS) for 16 months until he died of pneumonia. His attacker, David Clark, was not prosecuted for the homicide because of the anachronistic rule. Instead, he received a three-year jail sentence for causing grievous bodily harm, but was released after 18 months.

This caused widespread public concern, and Pat Gibson, Michael's mother, along with her MP, Alan Milburn, started a campaign to change the law. The new Act, a Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Doug Hoyle (the Labour MP for

Warrington North), passed through Parliament with remarkable speed and unanimity. It went through all the Commons stages in less than two minutes.

The old rule was originally a procedural measure traceable to the Statute of Gloucester in 1278. Relatives of the victim who wanted to bring an action had to do so within a year. The Crown could also prosecute but, as a matter of practice, it usually waited until the 366-day period had expired before a prosecution. Through judicial pronouncements, this procedural requirement was hardened into a substantive rule of law for all homicide actions. The "day" was added to show that a year must run after the day on which the injury was done.

One of the original reasons for the rule was evidential: testimony from witnesses about an incident more than a year old would be unreliable, so a universal limit of "a year and a day" was adopted as a convenience. Additionally, there is the point that the person responsible for the initial injury should



not be indefinitely exposed to prosecution for homicide. There are many cases similar to that of Mr Gibson's. Since the rule was made, medical science has developed significantly and it is now possible for severely injured people to be kept alive for a long time in PVS on life-support systems. There are about 1,200 people in PVS in the UK, a number of whom are victims of attacks. Under British Medical Association guidelines for PVS cases, artificial feeding should not be withdrawn for at least a year, and in the light of recent evidence that PVS sufferers can recover after a period longer than a year, the waiting period for withdrawal of artificial feeding might be extended. Recent guidelines from the

Royal College of Physicians are being reconsidered in the light of the case involving a businessman from the North of England. He is a patient whose condition was diagnosed seven years ago as in PVS yet in March he suddenly confounded doctors by becoming aware of his surroundings and communicating with hospital staff.

In the same week Geoffrey Wildsmith, a brain-damaged musician from Surrey, who was also in PVS, began communicating about how he had been attacked on a train two and a half years earlier. Police had originally assumed that part of his head had been sliced off in an accident when he put his head out the window. The number of PVS victims is likely to grow because more life-support systems will now be kept on for longer. Some sufferers, such as the businessman, and Mr Wildsmith, may recover but others will not and when their machines are turned off, murder prosecutions could now follow.

Abolition of the old rule also carries reverberations into the world of industrial deaths. When criminal gross negligence from an employer results in death, a manslaughter prosecution can follow. Every year there are about 450 workplace fatalities. There are

thought, about 10,000 annual deaths from chronic, work-related conditions such as asbestosis and mesothelioma. Under the year and a day rule, such fatalities were outside the law of homicide, even when there was criminal culpability on the employer's part. Now, many manslaughter prosecutions could, theoretically, result from these deaths when a victim is recklessly injured at work then takes more than a year to die.

Every year thousands of people die from injuries they suffered more than a year earlier in incidents resulting from criminal driving, from assaults, and from incidents or conditions received at work. Prosecutions for causing death by dangerous driving, murder, manslaughter and infanticide could rise sharply as a result of the new law.

How far this happens will, though, be a matter of policy to be decided by the Attorney-General. His consent is now required before a prosecution can be brought in cases in which the injury alleged to have caused the death occurred more than three years before the death occurred, and also when the person whom it is intended to prosecute for a fatal offence has already been convicted of an offence connected to the circumstances of the death.

Dr Slapper is principal lecturer in law at Staffordshire University.

So that's what it's all about

Donald Williams seeks English equivalents of Latin sayings

One does not have to be a professor or even a student of linguistics to know that our English language is a charivari of languages. That is one of its strengths. The cross-fertilisation has brought about its variety and wealth of expression. That part of the language used by lawyers — Legalese or Linglish — reflects the many sources of law that have become embedded, enmeshed or barnacled in our legal system and the practice of law.

One only has to think of such odd-sounding expressions as "feme sole", "sequestration" or "garnishee" to realise the influence of the various legal systems that have been absorbed by English law (Scottish lawyers have their own mixture, producing such notions as "not proven" and the "sisting" of a judgment).

But has the time come to rid ourselves of what Pope described as "the dull lumber of the Latin store" and purge our English language of foreignisms? The debate is perennial, most recently chiming with a discussion on whether lawyers' wigs, tabs and robes are to be discarded. The higher the judicial level, the deeper the consideration of the problem.

The present Lord Slynn of Hadley, while presiding over the Employment Appeal Tribunal, gave an example of purging by suggesting that a modern rendition of *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio* should be "The dirty dog gets no dinner here". So a helpful glossary of Latin tags and sayings and their modern-day equivalents might read:

● *In pari delicto potior est defensoris* could be rendered as "When choosing between two dirty dogs, the defendant has the upper hand (or paw)".
● *Vigilantibus non dormientibus aequitas subvenit* — "Equity does not help sleeping dogs".

● *Qui primus in tempore primus in iure* — "First come, first served".
● *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* — "Doctor, heal yourself" or "Lawyer, make your own will".
● *Mea culpa* or *Peccavi* — "It's down to me" or "It's a fair cop".
● *Timeo Danaos dona ferentes* — "There is no such thing as a free lunch".
● *Amor vincit omnia* is obviously "All you need is love".
● *Damnnum sine injuria* — "A paper (or academic) judgment" or even "a pyrrhic victory".
● *Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus* — "Once a liar, always a liar".
● *Non compos mentis* could be

"not all there in the upper storey", "out to lunch", "a screw loose" or to be p.c. "intellectually disadvantaged".
● *O tempora, o mores* brings to mind Laurence and Hardy as "What a fine mess you've gotten us into".
● A modern version of *Pax vobiscum* would be "Cheers".
● *Quod erat demonstrandum* could refer to the hockey-cocky as "That's what it's all about".
● *Quot homines tot sententiae* might be "Beware of juries" (or even of second opinions).
● *Rem acu legisti* for darts players could be "bull's eye"; for golfers "a hole in one".

At the end of the day (or of the case) it matters little whether or not a Latin tag has been invoked as long as justice is done with a simultaneous translation provided. It would be a sad day if lawyers could no longer use Latin tags simply for want of a translation. My glossary is offered to avoid a future judge having to say: "No Latin please — We're English."

The author is a Chairman of Industrial Tribunals, London (North), and sat as a Recorder until last year.



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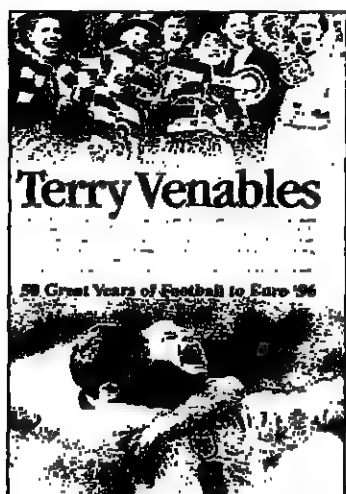
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Gazza's critics silenced

BY TERRY VENABLES

England are held to a draw by Switzerland in a tense start to Euro 96 but spirits are lifted by a win over Scotland and Gascoigne's magical goal



On paper, our first game in Group A did not seem too daunting. We had beaten Switzerland comfortably 3-1 in a friendly at Wembley seven months earlier, and nothing that had happened since then suggested they were going to be a bigger threat to us: just the opposite, in fact. The decision of the Swiss FA not to retain Roy Hodgson, the Englishman who had transformed their national team into a real force and got them to the finals, looked as though it might upset the applecart. Artur Jorge, the Portuguese who replaced him, is a good, experienced and successful coach, but there was every possibility the players might struggle to adapt to his methods in the short time available. Two of their most famous and talented players didn't need to bother. Jorge created a real stir by leaving Alain Suter and Adrian Knap out of his 22.

Even so, I always knew it was going to be a difficult game, the first one. It wasn't just our first competitive game for nearly three years, but the first game of the tournament. And when did you ever see a good opening match? There are peculiar tensions and pressures at work and the crowd was a bit subdued. I think that might have been because they'd had two and a half hours of entertainment during the opening ceremony. The spectators might have been tired, I don't know, but a lot of people said it was a strange atmosphere. Perhaps they were nervous, too. We did all right in the first half, when Alan Shearer ended his England goal-drought with a powerful strike, and David Seaman and all the boys felt we had a tackle on all their chances in the second half. Although Kubilay Turkylmaz was a bit of a handful, there was nothing clear-

cut, really, and we should have scrambled through 1-0 and had the points to give us a platform to go forward.

Instead, we had a harsh penalty given against us late in the game, when Pearcey was adjudged to have handled a shot by Marco Grassi. Turkylmaz gave Seaman no chance of saving that kick and we had to settle for a draw. I'm not disputing that Stuart handled the ball, but there's no doubt in my mind there was no intent on his part to do so. If you recall, he was right on top of Grassi trying to block the shot, and he had turned his head away to avoid being hit in the face. The ball struck his hand, which was up alongside his face, but I don't see how he could possibly have handled intentionally when he was not even looking at the ball. You've got to see it to handle it!

People claimed we ran out of steam in the second half and tried to suggest the trip to the Far East had taken its toll, but I don't think that was the reason we fell away after the interval. We examined the possibility and I mentioned it to the players, but another look at the game on video satisfied me that something else was responsible. It was the old business of the last thing you learn being the first thing you forget under pressure. In any case, we proved later it wasn't a question of fitness. If we were out of gas, we would have been out all the way through the tournament. We certainly wouldn't have got fit in time for our next game, against Scotland, a week later. In fact, that week gave us the time we needed to iron everything out, and I thought we were fine by the time we faced the Scots the following Saturday. I think we would still have got there with four days' preparation, but it was nice to have the extra day or two.

What also happened was that all the criticism we got for failing to beat Switzerland made us much more determined to do well. We knew what points we had to get right and went through them all thoroughly with the players. What pleased me more than anything was the training and the preparation during that week between the first two games. Everything we wanted to cover, we covered. I would have liked to do some other things that were perhaps more entertaining, but Don (Howe) and Bryan (Robson) did the ball-work with them and I used my time with the tactical side of it.

Scotland presented an entirely different challenge. Because they



Having lobbed the ball over Hendry, Gascoigne leaves the Scotland defender in his wake as he volleys home one of the best individual goals seen at Wembley

were another British side and because we, the oldest rivals in world football, had not played each other for seven years, there was a real danger of our players treating the game as something separate from the tournament rather than as part of it. I tried hard to guard against that kind of approach, and stressed they must regard it as just another game and not something special.

A lot of people thought we started poorly against the Scots, but I don't think that's fair. We did what we set out to do. I'd been banging on to the players about having 90 minutes to

very poor. Then, in the second half, they tried to win the game.

At half-time I made the decision to take Pearce off and bring Jamie Redknapp on. The reason was that, with Southgate coming into central midfield, we had two anchor men there. I was happy for Paul Ince to break forward, as he can, with Gareth holding, or vice versa. What we were trying to do was get our central midfield to run their players away so that the people at the back could have more space to pass the ball. The trouble was that Gareth was getting ahead of the ball and receiving it with his back

moved opposing defences about. If you look at it again, you will see how the attack is shifted back and forth across the field until we find the opening we are looking for. I wanted someone to manipulate the ball, and Redknapp did exactly that. Jamie was very unfortunate to twist his ankle in that game, jumping for the ball; but he's definitely one for the future. He's got lots of confidence and he likes playing with Gascoigne. They played so well together in China, if you recall.

Then, about 15 minutes from the end, we had a penalty awarded

knocking the ball in to him first time. Colin Hendry had come across to make a challenge, but Gascoigne lifted the ball over him with his left foot, then volleyed it into the bottom corner with his right as he ran round the flummoxed Scottish defender.

It was not only the best goal of the tournament, but the best in the last two or three major tournaments. If Romario or Marco van Basten had scored it, everyone would be raving about it still; but, being English, we tend to give only grudging respect to wonderful demonstrations of individual skill like that. When the goal went in, incidentally, a picture flashed into my mind. It was of Richard Littlejohn, the *Daily Mail* columnist, who had cruelly dubbed Gazza "fat boy". I could just see Littlejohn throwing his cream buns and Greyfriars cap into the air.

That was good for us, because it gave other players more room to do some damage. But the poor guy just can't win in the eyes of some people. First we were accused of being over-reliant on him, then there were calls for me to drop him from the team because someone thought he wasn't doing the business. It seems the critics are always looking for a reason to have a go at him. But as far as I am concerned, he did everything I expected of him. It was a remarkable achievement to get himself back into tournament fitness after all his injury problems, and he made a full contribution to the team effort — as he always does. He is a giver. All he wants is his team to be successful.

Gazza seems to have a problem with referees in Scotland, but something no one mentioned during Euro 96 was that he's got only one yellow card in five games at a very high level of competition. So

he obviously learnt from his mistakes at the finals of the 1990 World Cup, where he would have missed the final because of two yellow cards. Not this time, though. Everyone kept saying he was a time bomb, but no one mentioned how well-behaved he was during the competition. So it's not just a question of his behaviour off the field: you've got to talk about his behaviour on it, too.

If we were to look back on Gazza's career now, and it was over, I would say he's done enough already to be classed as one of the all-time greats of English football. I thought he did tremendously well for England in 1990 and he did a lot for us this time, too. He's a rare mixture of lots of players. He's got a Dave Mackay type of build, for instance, but he can manipulate the ball like George Best. The difference is that the tabloids weren't as merciless in George's day as they are today. I've dealt with the Schusters and the Maradonas of this world, and other players of great talent and I would say Gazza is in that class.

People say I'm the expert at handling him, but it just seems like good old-fashioned common sense to me. I think as long as you don't bullseye him, he's OK. Sometimes, you have to have a go at him because he's picking his nose or looking at something else when you are talking to him. At other times, you have to understand his problems, and he appreciates you taking the time to do it. He's different from other players only in that he's probably got a wider variety of behaviour patterns.

Extracted from *The Best Game in the World* by Terry Venables, published by Century on September 5 at £15.99.

While our win against the Scots put us in a strong position in Group A, we still needed to beat Holland three days later to be absolutely sure of reaching the quarter-finals. A point would have done but, as I stressed at the time, playing for a draw can be a very dangerous game. So, I was confronted by the exciting and demanding task of devising a plan to beat the team I most admire in Europe. That's not strictly true, in that Ajax are the team I most admire in Europe. But there were so many current and former Ajax players in the Dutch team which competed in Euro 96, the difference between them was minimal. After all, Holland only qualified for the tournament in a play-off with the Republic of Ireland after coach Guus Hiddink had finally committed himself to playing the Ajax way.

Unless you look at Ajax for hours and hours, and start to realise how clever they are and why they are doing certain things, you will never unravel the complexity of their tactical plan. Even the smallest things matter. You may not think so at first, but it does. Fortunately, because I was so fascinated by their unusual tactics, I had put endless hours into studying them. In fact, I flatter myself that no coach in Euro 96 could have been better prepared than I was to take on Holland. Not only that, but I really believed we could do what Ajax and Holland do — and do it better — because we had better players. I was convinced of that, despite the ridiculous claims of Louis van Gaal, the Ajax coach, and Ruud Gullit that no foreigners could master the Ajax way of playing because you need to learn it from a very young age. What about Jari Litmanen, Nwankwo Kanu and Finidi George, then? They are not Dutch, but it didn't take them long to adjust to playing for Ajax. What their system of teaching young players does is enable them to get

into the first team at an early age. But I don't think it's impossible to teach it to other people. If artists can copy Van Gogh successfully, I don't see why we can't copy a few of Ajax's principles. It's not rocket science we are talking about, after all. Johan Cruyff improved on it at Barcelona, and I think it can be improved further.

If you are doing what the Dutch do, only half as well as they are doing it, you've got a problem. It's no good copying it if you are going to be second best at what they do. But I always thought that if we gave it 100 per cent, and didn't do it grudgingly, our wide players (Anderton and McManaman) were better than theirs (Jordi and Richard Witschge) and our strikers were better than theirs. Yes, you read that correctly. I didn't think Patrick Kluivert and Dennis Bergkamp would be as effective as Teddy Sheringham and Alan Shearer, because Sheringham and Shearer had the edge in the air. I was also confident we were as strong as them in midfield and at the back.

The upshot of all this was a decision to dust off the "Christmas tree" formation the media had become obsessed with soon after I took over as England coach. I coined that name for it because the shape of the formation — 1-3-2-1, gave it the outline of a pine tree. I had only used it two or three times during the 20 friendly matches leading up to Euro 96, but some football writers — Harry Harris prominent among them — seemed to think it was a permanent fixture. The way they went on about it all the time. So I can't pretend it didn't give me a lot of satisfaction, and amusement, to re-plant the Christmas tree against Holland without any of the media men noticing.

I had always intended to use some sort of 4-3-3 formation in that game, but I wasn't sure whether to play the wingers wide or not. I



Shearer scores from the penalty spot to set England on the way to a remarkable 4-1 victory

Dutch mastered

Holland went into Euro 96 as second favourites behind Germany but Venables had done his homework and England produced a performance close to perfection

decided against it because the Dutch full backs, Michael Reiziger and Winston Bogarde, don't want to attack so we didn't need the wingers to go all the way back with them. Normally, Sheringham doesn't play deep enough when defending, so he had to stay right

up in attack or take the full back up to the halfway line. I was wondering whether it would work when, bingo, I watched Juventus beat Ajax in the European Cup final. The Italians played 4-3-3, but without any wide men. They just had Vialli, Ravanelli and Del Piero

getting up against Ajax's back four — which their usual three becomes against three attackers — and giving them problems. That convinced me we had worked out the best way to play Holland.

Once the game started, we had them all over the place tactically.

They weren't sure, for instance, who should pick up McManaman, who was playing alongside Sheringham in support of Shearer. Witschge marked him to begin with, but realised that wasn't working and passed him over to Bogarde. Sheringham, meanwhile, kept dropping very deep — so deep that Reiziger didn't know whether to follow him or stay where he was. It confused the Dutch almost as much as it confused some English observers, who complained Sheringham was dropping too deep! The reason Teddy usually comes back is to make sure we still outnumber the opposition in midfield if Ince has to drop into the back three. The good thing about Teddy is that he can come out of very deep positions, laying the ball off, and still be up in the box by the time the winger gets in a cross. In fact, it was in that way, I think, he started the move that led to Anderton's great scoring chance against Germany. Abroad, no one would be concerned about such tactics, but here we have to ask why he is playing so deep. Don't people think we have thought these things through!

The rest really is history. We just played Holland off the park and scored four times in the first 62 minutes without reply. Alan Shearer put away a penalty after Danny Blind had tripped Ince at the end of a clever attacking move. Sheringham scored with a header by making room for himself shrewdly at a corner. Shearer blasted home a lovely, disguised square pass from Sheringham, and then Teddy wrapped it up by pouncing on the loose ball when Edwin van der Sar, the Dutch goalkeeper, could not hold a fierce shot from Anderton. Kluivert, who had come on as substitute, got a late goal for Holland, but it wasn't much by way of consolation for a real drubbing. Even Hiddink had to admit we had been superior to

them in every aspect of the game. As a performance by England, it was close to perfection. You don't often get that close to it, especially when you are playing the Dutch.

I'm looking forward to sitting down at some later date with a glass of champagne and a cigar and watching it again on video. It will warm the cockles of my heart on a cold winter's night. But I expect they'll say I was lucky. People have tried to devalue the win by arguing that it was an inexperienced, sub-standard Dutch team we beat. Inexperienced some of them might have been in terms of international caps, but most of them had appeared in two European Cup finals and two World Club Championships.

Much was made, too, of the rifts

'I always thought that our wide players and our strikers were better than theirs'

in the Dutch camp, but they have always thrived on that sort of thing before. It was conveniently forgotten that Holland had started the tournament as second favourites — behind Germany — and took France to penalties after we had slaughtered them. I certainly cannot remember anyone beating Ajax or Holland by the sort of score we managed. Our trouble is that we are too reluctant to celebrate victory and too eager to downgrade our own achievements. It is one of the reasons we do not progress as a football nation.

TOMORROW

Penalty shoot-out despair for England and Southgate

JP 11/10/50

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21 1996

Consumer demand cheers City

By Robert Miller and Janet Bush

FRESH economic data showing further strong growth in consumer credit and a continued demand for home loans brought cheer to the City yesterday.

Encouraged by a stream of positive figures from banks, building societies and the Bank of England, the FT-SE 100 index finished the day 19.5 points up to close at a record high of 5,893.2.

The Building Societies Association (BSA) said it was particularly heartened that while net mortgage advances fell to £1.2 billion in July, from £1.4 billion the previous month, the figure was still 68 per cent higher than a year ago.

Ron Armstrong, deputy director-general of the BSA, said: "Other housing market indicators look promising for future growth in the market. Transactions have been increasing since April and house prices have also been rising, encouraging more sellers into the market."

"However, the severe downturn in the market remains recent history, meaning that borrowers are likely to remain careful," The British Bankers' Association (BBA) reported that mortgage lending rose £615 million, close to June's figure of £591 million and exactly equal to the six-monthly average.

The BBA added that consumer credit also rose strongly in July, by £539 million, more than double the previous month's £266 million and compared with a six-monthly average of £362 million.

Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said: "Further strong growth in consumer credit was a feature of the major banks' figures for July. With the seasonally adjusted increase of £539 million very close to the record April figure, this may point to a strengthening of consumer spending. In total, with mortgage lending rising in line with the recent monthly average, personal sector borrowing increased by over £1.1 billion."

The picture of stronger consumer activity appeared to be confirmed in figures from the Credit Card Research Group that showed spending on credit and debit cards in July up nearly 16 per cent compared with a year ago.

Figures from the Bank of England yesterday showed that the M4 measure of broad money supply has fallen into the Government's monitoring range for the first time for ten months. Above-target growth in M4 has been a key reason why the Bank has opposed lower rates and recently argued for rates to be raised.

However, analysts said yesterday's figures do not materially change the outlook for rates. Annual growth in M4 fell to 8.8 per cent in July from 10.1 per cent in June but this was largely because of a big repayment of government borrowing in that month and hefty sales of UK government bonds.

The Bank yesterday announced that it will sell £2.5 billion of 7.5 per cent gilts due to mature in 2006. The auction will be held on August 28.

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THE US Federal Reserve decided to leave American interest rates unchanged when its Federal Open Market Committee met yesterday. The decision not to raise rates was widely expected in financial markets after a recent run of economic data suggesting that blistering growth in the second quarter had already cooled off and that inflation remained low. Federal Funds stay at 5.25 per cent.

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Robert Peel and Rodney Price, chairman of Thistle, will use £100 million to build 2,000 rooms at existing hotels

Thistle aims to expand after float
By Alan Cairns Murray

THISTLE HOTELS yesterday said it was aiming to raise £250 million to help to fund expansion when it comes to the market next month.

Robert Peel, chief executive, said the company, Britain's second largest hotels group, would use around £100 million to build 2,000 rooms at existing hotels. The rest of the money will be used to cut debt. The float is expected to value Thistle at between £1 billion and £1.5 billion.

The company is majority owned by Brierley Investments, a New Zealand investment group, which will reduce its 70 per cent stake to between 40 and 50 per cent after flotation.

The company unveiled an 88 per cent increase in half-year profits, excluding exceptional items, to £24.1 million. Overall turnover rose 12 per cent to £146 million.

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Abbey faces bill for N&P compensation

By Caroline Merrall

ABBEY NATIONAL may be forced to compensate up to 10,000 people because of an administrative blunder after its takeover of the National & Provincial Building Society this month.

The problems involve N&P mortgage transactions that were in the process of being completed when the merger was finalised on August 5. N&P previously carried out its mortgage transactions from 22 sites around the country.

Now, all mortgages are being dealt with by a single administration unit in Bradford, which is under massive strain as it attempts to cope with a huge backlog of applications.

A spokeswoman for the Abbey National said: "We have taken on extra staff to try and deal with the backlog. They are working through the weekend and in the evenings to try and sort things out."

The spokeswoman said that the bank hoped to be able to solve the problems within two weeks.

One reader of *The Times* who had made a mortgage application to the N&P was due to complete on his house purchase on August 19, after a survey four days earlier.

After the survey, the reader's solicitor tried repeatedly to get some information about the progress of the mortgage application from the Abbey National. However, despite facing the Bradford centre several times, as well as telephoning the Abbey, the completion day was missed.

The reader may not have lost out financially because of the blunder as he lives in rented property and is not in a chain. Others, though, may not enjoy such good fortune.

House sellers who fail to get funds on the appointed day can penalise the buyer financially, depending on the terms of the contract.

Delays in exchange and completion could jeopardise the entire purchase for some of the former N&P borrowers. Abbey National said that it would compensate all those who lose money because of the mistakes.

Savers and borrowers with N&P will receive bonuses from next week as their share of the ownership of the society. When Abbey National converted to a bank in 1999 many members had to wait weeks for their bonus share certificates as large numbers were destroyed in a skip in South London.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES

FT-SE 100	5893.2	(+19.5)
Yield	4.57%	
FT-SE All Share	1917.75	(+8.78)
Nikkei	21127.01	(+20.60)
New York		
Dow Jones	5706.08	(+8.85)
S&P Composite	666.04	(-0.54)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5%)
Long Bond	5 3/8%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	5.80%	(5.80%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	100	(100)
Future (Sep)		

STERLING

New York	1.5473	(1.5483)
London		
DM	1.5472	(1.5458)
DM	2.3645	(2.3600)
FF	7.8514	(7.8576)
SP	1.8889	(1.8858)
Yen	167.61	(168.84)
£ index	84.4	(84.7)

US DOLLAR

London	1.4887	(1.4872)
DM	0.0820	(0.0850)
FF	1.2069	(1.2071)
SP	108.26	(107.81)
Yen	108.26	(108.26)

Tokyo close Yen 107.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$20.28	(\$20.40)
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GOLD

London close	\$357.55	(\$356.00)
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Inspection bows to staff plan critics

By Jason Nisbet

INSPECTION, the fast growing chemicals group that used to be part of BP, has bowed to institutional investor pressure and reformed a controversial scheme to allow its staff a no-lose way of subscribing for shares in the group.

The scheme would have allowed directors, employees and their families to subscribe for up to £8 million of shares in Inspect's proposed £101 million rights issue and only pay for them if the share price went up. It is almost identical to a scheme waived through by shareholders last year.

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After pressure from the Association of British Insurers and leading investors including Prudential, Scottish Widows and Standard Life which threatened to vote the scheme down, Inspect has revised the plan in time for today's extraordinary shareholders meeting.

Inspect has made three changes. It has said the shares can only be taken up if the company performed in the top quartile of the UK chemicals sector, that the shares can only be bought in three years time and that employees' spouses and families are excluded from the scheme.

Inspect was floated two years ago after a management and employee buyout from BP.

The approval of the employee share ownership scheme is a key element of the rights issue which is being used to fund the £201 million purchase of Shell's fine chemicals operation.

Pennington, page 25

Former Australian hero jailed for three years

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY



Disgraced: A brave-faced Alan Bond on his way to court

ALAN BOND, the Australian entrepreneur who was once described by Bob Hawke, the former Australian Prime Minister, as "one of the outstanding exports of pommichland", was back behind bars again last night after being sentenced to three years for fraud.

The disgraced businessman, who in the 1980s founded a worldwide empire worth billions, was jailed by a court in Perth, Western Australia, after being convicted on four corporate fraud charges over the purchase and sale of La Promenade, the impressionist painting by Manet, which Bond bought in 1983 for more than £2 million. The court heard that

the businessman's family company, Dallhold Investments, made a multimillion-dollar profit on transactions involving the painting, at the expense of Bond Corporation Holdings, the public company he founded.

For Bond, who faces a non-parole period of one year, it is his second time behind bars. In 1992 he was sentenced to two-and-a-half years imprisonment over an alleged £8 million secret commission relating to the collapse of an Australian merchant bank. The sentence was later quashed, but not before he had spent 90 days in jail.

Bond is due to return to court next year to face further charges relating to Bond Corporation.

The former tycoon, who emigrated to Australia from his family home in Ealing at the age of 13, looked strained but showed no reaction as sentence was passed. His defence counsel argued that a prison sentence might damage his client's health and even kill him, but the Judge told Bond that the seriousness of the crimes left no option but for him to serve a jail term.

Bond's fall from grace has left him with few friends. He has been living as a discharged bankrupt at his son's home in Perth. Bond Corporation has unpaid debts of more than £1.5 billion pounds and shareholders have received nothing. Yesterday's sentence is widely regarded as the end of his colourful career.

In 1983 he was seen as the great Australian hero who brought home the America's Cup. He could do no wrong in the eyes of most Australians, as both sportsman and tycoon, but his debts and dealings caught up with him in the 1990s. His fortunes began to fade after he built up a stunning art collection said to be worth £75 million. The centrepiece was Vincent van Gogh's *Irises*, for which he paid a world-record \$42 million.

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Masterpiece: La Promenade

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Bank deal to reduce credit risk

British banks yesterday announced new measures aimed at substantially reducing credit risks and stimulating liquidity in the \$6 trillion interbank market (Robert Miller writes).

Working under the umbrella of the British Banks' Association (BBA), UK banks and their counterparts in the G10 leading world economies have signed up to a new deposit netting agreement.

The new legal standard will allow banks that have lent money to each other to offset their credit risks against deposits that they already hold.

The BBA said the effects of the new agreement would be to release more funds for other transactions and give the international banking system greater protection in the event that a bank collapses and cannot meet its debts.

As interbank deposits work two ways — banks may lend and borrow simultaneously and in different currencies and for different lengths of time — the new offset arrangement should cover these diverse activities more effectively, it said.

Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said:

"The BBA has set a new standard in reducing credit risk throughout the market, enabling banks to pursue more profitable activities. The agreement will also stop the failure of one bank affecting others."

ICI ends talks

ICI has ended joint-venture discussions with the Yu Gang Company of Chongqing, China, to produce titanium dioxide in China. TiO₂, an ICI subsidiary, and Yu Gang were unable to agree.

Titles sold

Wilmington Group, the publishing company headed by Brian Gilbert that floated last December, has bought two international energy titles, *Nuclear Engineering International* and *Water Power & Dam Construction*, along with associated conferences from Reed Elsevier for £516,000.



Hans Snook, managing director of Orange, sought to allay City fears of a slowdown in the rate of growth in the mobile phone industry

Orange stays buoyant despite plunging deeper into the red

By PAUL DURMAN

ORANGE, the mobile phone company that floated on the stock market in March, yesterday insisted that its industry remains in robust health despite reporting first-half losses of £125 million.

Hans Snook, managing director of Orange, sought to allay City fears of a slowdown in the rate of growth in the mobile phone industry, claiming the apparent slowdown

was partly due to confusion among potential consumers, who find it difficult to choose between the complex pricing tariffs available.

He said: "Once the average users, the granny and granddad in Edinburgh, are comfortable that they know what the costs are, then market penetration is going to pick up very quickly."

Mr Snook also blamed the

high "churn" rate of lost customers suffered by Vodafone and Cellnet, the industry leaders. While gross connections in the first half remained not far short of 1.5 million, heavy losses of existing customers meant net connections of new subscribers fell a third to 617,000.

Within this changing picture, Orange has continued to make progress, its first-half

net connections rising from 104,000 last year to 194,000, giving it a market share of more than 31 per cent.

Mr Snook said he expected, as in the past, that second-half demand for mobile phones would outstrip that for the first six months of the year. Orange now has more than 600,000 subscribers. Orange's loss was an increase from £88.8 million last year. From its

expanded customer base, turnover jumped 156 per cent to £256.5 million.

For the first time Orange generated a positive cashflow of £6 million from its operating activities — an important milestone in the company's development, according to Graham Howe, the finance director. Orange is expected to move into profit in 1998.

Analysts were impressed that Orange has been able to increase its average monthly revenue per subscriber to £36.86, from £36.51 in the first half of 1995. Average monthly usage was also slightly higher at 167 minutes. Usually, mobile phone companies expect to see a fall in their average revenue as they attract customers who use their phones less often.

Shares in Orange rose 6p yesterday to 193p. Orange has given its shareholders a turbulent ride. Priced at 205p, the shares initially raced to 253p before sliding back to a low of 174p at the end of July.

Tempus, page 26

Kerry's 21% rise beats forecasts

FROM EILEEN MCCABE, IN DUBLIN

KERRY GROUP, Ireland's biggest food company, yesterday reported interim pre-tax profits up by 21 per cent, almost five percentage points more than analysts had forecast.

In the half-year to June 30, the company increased profits to Ir£10.9 million, from Ir£9.0 million in the same period last year, after a strong performance by all divisions. Earnings per share rose 20.4 per

cent, to Ir£0.6p. The company declared an interim dividend of Ir£0.264p, up 15 per cent.

Static turnover in Ireland was balanced by increases of 22 per cent in other European markets and 9 per cent in North America. Overall turnover rose 9 per cent, to Ir£389.4 million.

Kerry Ingredients made operating profits of Ir£29.4 million on Ir£332.2 million sales,

including four months of trading by Ciprial, a fruit ingredients company with operations in France and Italy, which was bought by Kerry in February.

Kerry Foods, the consumer goods division, performed particularly well increasing operating profits by 15 per cent, to Ir£10 million, on sales of Ir£226.8 million.

Although the BSE score cut sales in some areas, this was

offset by increases in branded product sales, the company said. In spite of a slight rise in turnover in agri-business activities, their operating profits fell from Ir£1.12 million to Ir£880,000.

The company said that current trading was in line with targets. It expected to complete integration of DCA Food Ingredients, a US acquisition, by the end of this financial year.

TransCo faces new curbs

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS was last night studying an advance copy of price curbs for TransCo, its pipeline business. The regulator will today publish what is expected to be a softened version of initial proposals which caused a storm of protest when they were announced in May.

It is not clear whether the modification will be sufficient to deter British Gas from seeking a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Yesterday the Gas Consumers Council kept up the pressure for the curbs imposed on TransCo to deliver the £30 a year cut in household bills which the regulator had at first indicated would be likely next year.

Analysis are tipping the one-off charge to be within the 20 per cent to 25 per cent range. Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said that £30 off bills can be delivered with a reduction next year of 20 per cent.

Ogas today will also unveil further assaults on TransCo's monopoly position with the publication of policy outlines on connection charging, metering and storage.

German rate cut hopes rise

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GROWTH in German M3 money supply, the economic indicator most closely watched by the Bundesbank, slowed by more than expected in July and increased hopes that rates may be cut when the bank's policymaking council meets tomorrow.

Growth in M3 dropped to an annualised 8.6 per cent in July compared with 9.6 per cent in June. In addition, the monthly rise of 0.2 per cent was the lowest increase for a year.

Less positive for those hoping for lower rates was a big 0.6 per cent jump in bank lending, one of the key components of M3. Also, despite the fall in its annualised rate, M3 is still outside the Bundesbank's monitoring range of 4 to 7 per cent.

Despite such caveats, economists were a touch more confident after the figures that the Bundesbank may sanction a small reduction in its repurchase rate tomorrow. Last week, a number of senior officials, including Oskar Lafontaine, the bank's chief economist, hinted that a rate cut may be possible if M3 growth continued to slow.

Business gives Australian budget cautious welcome

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S financial community gave a cautious welcome to the coalition Government's first budget yesterday as Peter Costello, the Treasurer, delivered his promised A\$8 billion (about £4 billion) of spending cuts but revealed a much worse than expected underlying budget deficit.

The slippage in the current deficit figure, which at A\$5.65 billion was much higher than the market's expectations of A\$4.9 billion, means that Australia's budget will not move into surplus until the 1998

financial year, rather than in 1997 as had been hoped.

Rob Henderson, chief economist at Dresdner Bank in Sydney, said yesterday: "My initial reaction is to give credit where credit is due. But I am disappointed in the underlying budget balance. We have to wait three years for a paltry surplus."

The Government's much heralded budget cuts, which include axing \$1.8 billion from higher education and \$400 million from Aboriginal funding, have sparked off angry demonstrations in Canberra.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Setback for names as court backs Lloyd's

LLOYD'S OF LONDON was still awaiting the outcome of a crucial court action in Virginia last night, as a separate case ended in a further defeat for aggrieved American names. A court in the Southern District of New York granted a motion by Lloyd's to dismiss a lawsuit brought by four names, who were seeking to prove that Lloyd's knew the extent of the liabilities that names faced by participating in some syndicates. Three of the plaintiffs were members of the Tufts family, who have taken a leading role in the Virginia action.

Peter Lane, managing director of Lloyd's North America, said: "Names entered into their commitments under UK law, and we are pleased that US courts continue to recognise this. What is important now is that names focus on accepting the R&R settlement offer." Names have a week in which to decide whether to accept the £3.2 billion Lloyd's settlement aimed at ending outstanding legal claims. In the Virginia action, about 100 names are seeking an injunction on the Lloyd's recovery plan, saying they want details of Equitas funding before taking a decision on R&R. Lloyd's says it is a matter for the UK courts. Closing arguments in the Virginia case are expected to be heard today.

Hutchings on £1.2m

GREG HUTCHINGS, chairman of Tomkins, the bread, guns and lawnmowers conglomerate, was paid £1.2 million and exercised share options worth £1.9 million in the group's last financial year. He also received fresh options worth £221,000, bringing the total potential value of options not taken up to £1.59 million, and had £67,000 paid into his pension scheme. Mr Hutchings's pay rose by £47,000. Ian Duncan, finance director, saw his salary increase by £22,000 to £704,000.

VW subsidies summit

GUENTER REKRODT, Germany's economics minister, will meet Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, in Brussels on Friday to resolve a dispute over state subsidies to Volkswagen. The Commission has ruled that funds totalling DM91 million received by VW from the state of Saxony were illegal and must be returned. In June the Commission refused to clear subsidies amounting to DM241 million for VW investment in Chemnitz and the Mosel region.

Takare rethinks strategy

TAKARE, Britain's second-largest nursing homes group, yesterday signalled its intention to pursue possible acquisitions in the healthcare sector. The group is scaling back its new build programme to redirect cash towards an acquisition war chest. Keith Bradshaw, chairman, said the group's spending power could total £100 million. Takare's pre-tax profits in the six months to June 30 fell to £8.7 million from £10 million in the same period last year. Earnings per share were 5.5p (6.5p). An interim dividend of 1p (0.9p) will be paid on October 7.

NatWest-Fleet alliance

NATWEST GROUP and Fleet Financial Group are to co-operate in the provision of banking services to corporate customers in Britain and America. NatWest will set up an office in Boston, Mass, to provide sterling and foreign currency account and cash management services to American companies that have a physical presence in Britain or trade there. Desks also will be created in Boston, New York and London. Fleet will provide US dollar accounts and cash management services to the US subsidiaries and offices of British-based companies.

Builders seek redress

BUILDERS are pressing the Government for up to £3 million compensation after improvement schemes for the A40 in west London were suddenly shelved. Earlier this month, and a week before the contractors had planned to submit tenders, the Highways Agency pulled two schemes from being publicly funded. The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors has complained to Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary. It is possible that the projects could re-emerge as private finance initiatives.

Active Imaging warns

SHARES of Active Imaging, the AIM-listed computer graphics group, fell 23p to 108p after it revealed the loss of two major franchises would put interim results significantly behind last year's. It said seven weeks ago Data Cell, a subsidiary, lost a distribution deal with ITI, the imaging group. David Slorach has resigned as Data Cell's managing director. The company said lost sales would be recovered by new distribution deals with Media Cybernetics and Cognex. Analysts downgraded 1996 forecasts from a £900,000 loss to one of £1.9 million.

Glenchewton higher

GLENCHEWTON, the import and distribution company that last year branched into the pubs business, reported interim pre-tax profits of £538,000, compared with £104,000 a year earlier. The results, for the six months ending June 30, include the first full six-month contribution from the 16 Country Style Inns acquired in October. Their sales grew 8 per cent on a like-for-like basis. Earnings per share rose to 1.89p, up 78 per cent. The company will pay an interim dividend of 0.45p per share (0.30p) on September 17.

Daily Mail group buys

DAILY MAIL AND GENERAL TRUST, the publishing and information company, is to acquire for £9.2 million an initial 40 per cent interest in British Study Group, a provider of academic and language courses for international students, based in Hove, East Sussex. DMGT is to acquire the outstanding shares by the year 2002 for a sum based on the performance of the company, valuing it at approximately £23 million. BSG, which will form part of Harmondsworth Publishing, a DMGT subsidiary, made £1.3 million profit on £14.5 million turnover in 1995.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	0.66	1.00
Austria Sch	17.19	15.89
Belgium Fr	36.40	46.10
Canada \$	2.29	2.09
Cyprus Cyp	0.746	0.891
Denmark Kr	9.46	6.83
Finland Mk	7.48	7.62
France Fr	8.27	7.62
Germany Dr	2.48	2.58
Greece Dr	383	258
Hong Kong \$	10.29	11.59
Iceland	113	83
Ireland P	1.01	0.93
Israel Sh	5.26	4.83
Italy Lit	2483	2388
Japan Yen	160.50	164.50
Malta	0.255	0.240
Netherlands Gld	2.755	2.502
New Zealand \$	2.59	2.17
Norway Kr	10.49	8.69
Portugal Esc	247.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	7.58	6.83
Spain Ptas	201.00	188.00
Sweden Kr	16.89	16.89
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
Turkey Lira	1963.04	1283.04
USA \$	1.644	1.614

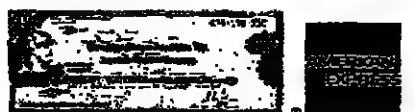
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□ Mortgage party may be premature □ Inspec's pay scheme is watered down □ Lloyd's inches towards a resolution

Beware the housing hangover

THE nation is celebrating a full-blown housing boom, and lenders are cutting each other's throats to supply mortgages. Areas are "up-and-coming" again; someone has even found a cure for negative equity. Admit to being an estate agent, and you can expect looks of envy rather than sympathy.

There is always someone who wants to spoil the party, so here are some negative pointers. The housing upsurge is much more fragile and more localised than earlier booms. That cure for negative equity, in the form of a guarantee to new borrowers, is more of an inoculation, and the original sufferers remain. Some lenders may even be storing up trouble in the way they account for all that new business.

First the housing upsurge. We are in danger of reading too much into figures from one, admittedly good, summer. New mortgage commitments are indeed 40 per cent up on a year ago. They are the best since, wait for it, March 1994, which does not seem terribly long ago. And that month not supposed to have been the forerunner to an earlier "boom"? And whatever happened to that?

Anecdotal evidence alone proves that good quality family houses in attractive areas are indeed selling within days, before a single "For Sale" sign has

been put up. This pent-up demand pushes up average prices, but what of the thousands of new homes in the wrong areas that builders are unable to sell?

The housing market, as Jon Foulds, chairman of the Halifax, pointed out yesterday, does not need another mortgage rate cut to maintain its momentum. Mortgages are now as cheap as they need ever be. Yet new borrowers are cautious, as are the more sensible building societies. The Halifax is wary of the rush for remortgage business, where huge rate discounts and cash-backs are common as incentives. Its new lending was also held back by those who opted to pay off their mortgages earlier rather than enjoying lower monthly payments as base rates fell — that caution again.

The Halifax is conservative in the way it accounts for those incentives. Along with Barclays Bank, for example, it takes them off profits at once, as the cost of winning new business. Others are less careful, some lenders writing them off over longer periods. In less than two years, mortgage incentives have cost

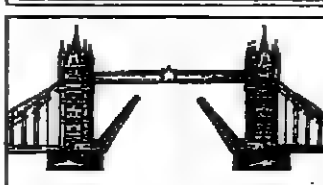
the Halifax a total of £295 million in "accumulated differences" — and this from a lender that claims to be less aggressive in looking for new custom.

Consider the worst scenario for housing, a market that falls back again stranding hundreds of thousands in negative equity. What chance of reclaiming those cash-backs, and how many will default on their loans just as low rates flip into higher ones? What is the bad debt position for those lenders who have taken the costs over a period of years? One would not wish to spoil anyone's party — but remember about hangovers.

Opting to take a no-lose line

CORPORATE financiers become ever more ingenious. The mutated rights issue put together for Inspec is one of the cleverest devices so far put in place to swell boardroom pay, its very cleverness reflected by the length of time it took shareholders to catch on. The prospectus to the Inspec rights was published on

PENNINGTON



July 26, but it took several weeks for institutions to realise that what was sold them as a simple cash-raising exercise contained a neat no-lose bet for executives and employees.

By this stage it was too late to uncouple the offending clause from the rights issue without putting the whole deal in jeopardy. Institutions, led by the Association of British Insurers, had to be content with tightening the performance required before the options materialised.

Under the terms of the scheme executives and employees, who already own more than 30 per cent of the company and could never have afforded to take up their rights, can elect to take share options instead. They

transfer their rights under the issue to a trust which pays for the new shares in their place. The trust will only in due course be reimbursed if the executives so choose. They will pay the rights issue price, and need only do so if this guarantees them a profit.

Everyone at Inspec is rather hazy over just who dreamt this one up, but what the market has missed is that this is the second time around. A similar scheme was contained in a rights issue last year, and the first load of options has just been granted. Needless to say, they offer an immediate profit.

The ABI has managed to extract a promise from Inspec that the process will not be repeated. But such a lull of an incentives package is ideal for companies where management hold a large stake, as in matured management buyouts such as Inspec, of which there are a fair few around. Management keep some measure of control rather than seeing their holdings diluted because the independent lawyers who control the trust are inclined to back them. At the same time, management can also become very rich.

One might hope no more of these schemes will emerge, but shareholders should still be vigilant.

Much brooding in Lime Street

COUNT your chickens slowly at Lloyd's. How often have optimists hailed the end of the long cliffhanger at the disaster-prone London insurance market, only to find that new troubles came to light, new disputes arose, new complications came up or last minute hitches stopped progress in its tracks.

In theory, all concerned should learn in eight days' time whether enough names have agreed the "final" £3.2 billion Reconstruction and Renewal scheme for it to go ahead. And yet...

Yesterday, Ron Sandler, Lloyd's chief executive, gave evidence in what appears to be a crucial case in last-gasp state-by-state American legal attempts to block the scheme. So far, Lloyd's has won in lesser cases, including one in Tennessee over the weekend and another in New

York yesterday. Then the counting has to start in Lime Street. Support is needed from names accounting for two thirds of the final contributions to Equitas, the all-purpose reinsurance vehicle designed to hive off past liabilities. Otherwise, professionals who have promised cash to end litigation might not play and there would not be enough premium to fund Equitas.

The latest Mori poll indicated five to one approval for R&R among UK names. But only signatures will be conclusive.

If the scheme goes ahead, years of financial misery still await thousands of names. At least they will finally know the damage. And what has to be done would have been done. The market itself could get on with its business and out of the headlines. But don't count on it.

Switched off

A CONSUMER group says electricity companies are dragging their feet, refusing to prepare for the competitive market in power in spring 1998. But virtually all concerned believe this Government-imposed deadline cannot realistically be met. Dragging your feet while being frog-marched towards an utter disaster might be undignified, but it is surely better than rushing in of your own free will.

BSkyB hits new heights with profits leap of 66%

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting Group, the satellite television company, yesterday unveiled a record 66 per cent increase in full-year profits to £257 million.

The total number of subscribers to BSkyB's satellite channels jumped 16 per cent to 5.5 million, while overall turnover increased 30 per cent to a little more than £1 billion.

In March, BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, attracted 10 per cent of the total viewing audience for the first time. However, shares in the company closed down to 2p, at 535p, after profit-taking in the market. There was also some disappointment that the total dividend of 5.5p (2.5p) represented just 55 per cent of taxable earnings, compared with the expected rate of 66 per cent.

BSkyB recently renewed its contract to cover Premiership football until 2001. It also

holds the rights for the Nationwide Football League, rugby union and rugby league matches and some boxing bouts. The company plans to add a further 11 channels in a joint venture in the autumn with Granada, the media and leisure company, taking the total number available to 40.

The rate of subscription cancellation fell from 12.7 per cent to 12 per cent, while the number of subscribers supplied by cable rose 40 per cent to 1.77 million, with an increase in the number of premium channels sold through cable boosting total cable revenue 63 per cent.

Sam Chisholm, chief executive, said the solid growth would provide a firm base for the company to pursue its plans to launch digital satellite television next year.

BSkyB is considering partners, including BT, to help to promote and subsidise the launch. BT has expressed an interest in providing content services, such as Home Banking, through the new digital channels.

Mr Chisholm added that BSkyB was now likely to take a stake in Premiere, Germany's first pay per view channel, in alliance with Kirch Gruppe and Bertelsmann, the German media groups, and Canal Plus, the French television company.

BSkyB pulled out of the original launch of the new channel in March after the collapse of an alliance with Bertelsmann. But the company recently signed a joint-venture agreement with Kirch to develop a digital channel in Germany and is now prepared to acquire a 25 per cent stake in the Premiere venture.

A final dividend of 3p is payable on November 14.



Chisholm: digital plans

Recovery under way at Graseby

By FRASER NELSON

GRASEBY, the electronic instrument maker, is in talks to supply its recently-developed toxic chemicals detector to a civil client in the Middle East.

The talks, which follow last month's £32 million deal to supply the device to the US Army, signal the recovery of Graseby's defence division. The company said demand for its gas detectors had risen after heavy use of chemical weapons in the Gulf War.

Paul Lester, chief executive, said all four divisions had returned to growth. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 recovered from a disastrous second half of 1995, increasing from £2.3 million to £5 million, but were still 7 per cent behind the first half of 1995. Medical division sales were hit by fewer NHS orders. The interim is held at 2.7p.

Anger over Costain disclosure

By OLIVER AUGUST

COSTAIN shareholders were furious yesterday over news that the company was in breach of Stock Exchange rules because more than 75 per cent of its shares are in the hands of only three investors. They fear Costain's share listing may be cancelled and believe the company should have informed them sooner.

The UK Shareholder Association said such an omission went against the Cadbury Report on corporate governance. Edmund Jackson, of the UK Shareholder Association, said the board must make every effort to circulate what they will do as widely as possible.

If the listing was cancelled, 15,000 shareholders would be without an open market for their shares. A Costain spokesman said: "There is an active market where you can buy and sell easily."

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bassett faces a hounding

PHILIP BASSETT, industrial editor of *The Times*, can expect some serious ribbing when he attends the TUC conference next month. Baron Bassett of Wapping is likely to be the favoured nickname of other industrial journalists, who are all secretly delighted that his partner Liz Symons, general secretary of the First Division Association, was named as one of the new Labour peers yesterday.

Symons, who has led the FDA for 7½ years, and before that was deputy general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, has already tendered her resignation, feeling membership of the upper house is not appropriate for a representative of senior civil servants.

Bassett said yesterday he was relieved there was still one inequality for women — their partners do not receive an honorary title. It also robs Liz of one excuse for accepting her peerage. Many of the great and the good say they only accept the honour because their wife fancies being called Lady Whatever.

Helping hand

VIVE la difference. In September's issue of *Vogue*, Olga Polizzi, sister of Sir Rocco Forte, muses on the differences between men and women in the workplace. Men, she says, are overly concerned about titles and "crawl their way to the top floor". Women, by contrast, "are content with doing a good job" and are less concerned with promotion. She continues: "When something goes wrong women take the blame, men blame someone else." After the Granada takeover, Mrs Polizzi left Forte, the hotels group founded by her father, Lord Forte. She had been a director, a position to which, one supposes, she did not crawl.



"Why are they called Orange if they are always in the red?"

Fame at last

MOVE over, Nick Leeson. Hard-hitting financiers at Granville, the private investment banking group, will soon be buying a farewell drink for Paul Dawson, head of PR for the past seven years, who has been appointed lecturer in financial derivatives at London City University. Dawson, 45, said: "The demand for people in derivatives is growing all the time, thanks to Mr Leeson. I will buy him a big drink when he gets out," he says.

Paper chase

AS M&G confirms it is one of the ten bidders for Kleinwort Benson's £500 million European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) spare a thought for Bob Wigley. Merrill Lynch's director of investment banking, a Kepit adviser, has taken delivery of the ten takeover offers with each running to a large box of documents and some considerably more. Wigley said: "I can't see a clear surface anywhere in my office..."

... IF WIGLEY'S paper mountain seems large, the Halifax's looks set for the Guinness Book of Records, with 75 million mail items as it heads for market next summer.



Famous faces boosting corporate events include, from left, clockwise: Noel Edmonds and Mr Blooby, who backed a Total campaign; Michael Blooby, who interviewed Royal Mail managers; Heather Mills, the model in demand as a motivational speaker; Willy Rushton and Nick Ross

Mr Blooby at the rostrum as firms play celebrity card

Hiring that 'bloke off the telly' can make corporate events work, says Susan Gray

Wishing upon a star is the latest trend in business conferences, with celebrity speakers and facilitators putting delegates through their paces.

The conference platform cliché "Someone who needs no introduction from me" has taken on new life as delegates get used to watching stars of stage and screen chat to their MD. Appearance fees starting at £2,000 mean that there is no shortage of celebrities willing to share the stage with senior management.

Royal Mail used Michael Blooby, the newscaster, to mark its final phase of changing to fully computerised delivery. He quizzed senior managers on what the new systems would mean in practice at a conference for Royal Mail's operational managers at the Heathrow Radisson. Joining Blooby on a TV studio-style sofa, Royal Mail top brass were interviewed in a combative current affairs format. Blooby's role was to voice the concerns of the conference floor, previewing the issues that operational managers would face from the shopfloor when the system was up and running.

Heavyweight broadcasters are seen to lend credibility to a company's message of openness. Nicky Havilar, production director of Crown Communications, says that a management's endorsement of question-and-answer sessions with a respected broadcaster shows that it has nothing to hide.

Nick Ross, the broadcaster, refereed a four-way debate between 220 former managers and employees of North West Water and Norweb in May. The companies had merged at the end of last year to form United Utilities. At the start of the conference, few delegates expected the debate to be honest and responsive, but, after seeing Ross in action, most delegates felt that management had answered questions fairly.

Miles Johnson, managing director of Presentation Company, organiser of the Royal Mail event, says that celebrities make employee conferences more memorable and, therefore, more effective. "The whole point of employee events is that people return to work on Monday morning and do things differently," he said.

Oddly, celebrities also add familiarity to an alien conference environment.

Delegates feel more at home watching a television personality on a studio-style set, than watching their own senior management talk about their own industry.

Just as the right celebrity can make a corporate event memorable, randomly pairing conferences and stars is a recipe for disaster. "There has to be a synergy between the celebrity and the event," says Neil Crespin, managing director of MCM Events. "There's no point in just having the star there to say hello."

In September 1994 Total Oil wanted to relaunch a forecourt promotion, to coincide with the autumn start of the school run. Advised by Crespin, Total decided to use Noel Edmonds for the relaunch internally and externally. Edmonds appeared on poster sites as his television show *Noel's House Party* started its autumn run, and forecourt staff attended a corporate *House Party* designed for Total. Crespin organised two *House Party* events for tranches of 400 Total employees at Nottingham University. Ray Redmond, Total's marketing manager, says: "When Noel came on the stage, the cheers were unbelievable. Eighteen months on, people are still talking about it."

The *House Party* format helped Total to overcome business problems typical of petrol retailing: employees dispersed over 600 sites, high staff turnover and infrequent contact with senior management. Redmond says that the event gave forecourt employees the chance to meet each other and discover that working for Total was not so bad. Petrol sellers also saw remote headquarters managers put in the television programme's gunge tank and win money for charity by competing in *House Party's* Grab a Grand game. The ubiquitous Mr Blooby appeared on stage to poke fun at the promotion. The

subsequent take-up of the promotion helped to dispel any scepticism on the motivational value of Mr Blooby and the gunge tank.

Noel Edmonds says that his success at motivating delegates comes from getting under the skin of the conference brief. "I play the role of communicator as well as host," he says. "I position myself as the enthusiastic consumer." As chairman of the Unique Group, Edmonds is no stranger to hard-hitting business messages. "The novelty of seeing the bloke off the telly soon wears off," he says. "I have to urge delegates to sustain success, through deeper involvement, at every level of the company."

Prodrive, a performance engineering firm, used MCM Events to provide a corporate Christmas *House Party* for 240 employees. Prodrive staff were already party veterans through their firm's involvement with the world of motor racing.

David Richards, Prodrive's managing director, said: "Motor racing people are used to champagne and celebrations, so the Christmas party can be just another drugstore. We wanted to come up with something original." MCM organised a spoof awards ceremony, incorporating elements of the television *House Party*, whose format allowed all staff to be involved.

Richards was "arrested" by actors dressed as customs officers who threatened to close Prodrive. Richards's defence, recorded on video, that 240 jobs depended on him, became the impromptu keynote speech of the event and drew a standing ovation. "Events work so much more effectively in a self, famous format," Richards says. "Staff, clients and sponsors acknowledge the 1995 Christmas party as a unique event."

Prodrive now has a challenge. "We entertain 500 people annually, and can't be seen to do the same thing year on year," Richards says. "Now we have to work out how to top last year's event."

The cheers were unbelievable. Eighteen months on, people are still talking about it

Is this the end of the road for the company car?

With his natural flair for the grand gesture, Archie Norman, chief executive of Asda, single-handedly sparked a debate that will resonate in every office in the land. After a quarter of a century as the unrivalled top corporate perk, the company car has finally outlived its usefulness.

Mr Norman claimed that he and his fellow directors had decided to give up their company cars because the "sense of status and hierarchy" they provoked was "antipathetic" to the Asda corporate culture.

Maybe. But for Mr Norman, who was paid £548,000 last year for leading the supermarket group, and made more than £3 million profit in options, allowing him to keep a luxury Mercedes on the road, this was a relatively painless gesture.

In contrast, for the hundreds of thousands of sales reps, middle managers and junior executives slogging up and down the motorway for their £20,000 or £30,000 a year, voluntarily handing over the keys to their company cars remains unthinkable.

In spite of the five-fold increase in company car taxation since the mid-1980s and the increasingly generous



It Asda go Archie Norman is to give up his executive perk

"cash alternatives" offered by employers, the British salaried remains hooked on its £5 billion-a-year perk.

The number of companies offering cash options to try to cut down their bloated car fleets has risen from 20 per cent to 57 per cent last year, but only about one employee in ten is currently taking up the offer.

Matthew Ellis, a senior tax manager with Price Waterhouse, said: "Although about 70 per cent of companies have reviewed their provision of

cars recently to see if they are still an efficient way of remunerating employees, the conclusion is that not many companies have done much about it.

"They are too ingrained into the UK middle management psyche, and a benefit most employees don't want to give up. However, what we are seeing is more employees who have pure perk cars that they are not using for business at all, such as people in the City, being offered a cash sum."

The company car remains a

Businesses are offering cash options in a bid to shrink fleets, but few employees take them



Fleet treat: company cars remain a highly prized benefit

peculiarly British phenomenon, effectively born in the income policy days of the early and mid-1970s, when giving an employee a car was a highly tax advantageous route around statutory pay restraint.

About 50 per cent of all new cars sold in this country are bought by companies, compared to around 20 per cent in most continental European countries, where the company car features far less prominently in corporate life.

By the late 1980s there were

three million company cars on Britain's roads, and although the numbers fell during the recession, the trend is now firmly up again. Last year, the company car once again topped the league table of corporate perks, ahead of subsidised catering and relocation costs.

It has survived the fiscal attacks of Nigel Lawson, who in successive Budgets doubled and doubled again the taxation of company cars, drastically reducing their financial attractiveness. Since

1986, the annual taxable cost of a typical 1500cc car has risen almost six-fold, from £525 to £2,990.

Even the Labour Party is shying away from full-scale reform of the company car regime to try to cut down their numbers. One of the early drafts of its transport policy included measures to clamp down heavily on company car use.

By the time the finished policy was published, red pen had been marked through all the more draconian ideas, and

BUSINESS LETTERS

Playing safe over direct debits

From Mr Michael Abbott
Sir, Your report (St Michael's double confession, August 20) that Marks & Spencer have collected twice from its forty thousand loan and charge account customers causes me no surprise.

If you give a supplier a direct debit it is the same as leaving your purse or wallet on the table in the hope that only fixed amounts will be taken at regular intervals. It is a fool's paradise — so called errors can take that amount as many times as the errors persist and with a variable direct debit the amount can be whatever the supplier decides. My wife

and I will not allow any direct debits on our bank accounts. We now find some service providers charge extra or will not supply unless we have a direct debit — so be it, but we are in control.

I have been called a dinosaur for my "old fashioned" approach to the modern banking technology but dinosaurs lived long. They did not have the stress of direct debits and some species ate their service providers instead. A far happier solution! Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ABBOTT,
27 Pier Avenue,
Tankerton,
Whitstable, Kent.

Simply red for all

From Mr Kenneth Armitage
Sir, Surely it is not a case as to whether or not the public recognise red phone boxes as belonging to BT, as a BT spokeswoman suggests. (BT wants court to cut off call-box rival, August 9) but rather that people, looking to make a telephone call when out and about, could immediately recognise the red phone booth, just as they still recognise the red post box, at some distance.

BT chose, presumably as part of its change of image and marketing strategy after privatisation, to replace the unmistakable red phone boxes, in some cases with ghastly hooded booths, a decade ago. Surely they can no longer claim a right to something they decided to relinquish? Besides, the right to the red phone booths most probably belongs to the former General Post Office (GPO) now the Post Office? Frankly, it would be useful if all telephone booths were returned to the unmistak-

able red colour but simply have a different company logo on the glass door or sidepieces. That way it is the customer who could choose which telecommunications network provider to use.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ARMITAGE,
6 Deben Valley Drive,
Kingsgrave,
Suffolk.

Bank's duty is plain

From Mr T. G. Douglas
Sir, In the debate as to whether interest rates should rise or fall, without reiterating the economic effects on sterling and trade, the real issue is plain. The Bank of England's duty is to advise the Government on such matters. What is the purpose of this function, or even of the Bank itself, if its advice is not taken? Yours faithfully,
T. G. DOUGLAS,
2 Sauldham House,
Sauldham Drive,
Highcliffe-on-Sea,
Christchurch, Dorset.

Maximisation of transatlantic air routes

From Mr A. J. Lucking
Sir, Mr Ayling (Letter, August 13) claims that air fares have fallen by 40 per cent in five years. My reading of BA's annual reports is that the average receipt per passenger km has fallen 30 per cent, and that much of this fall is due to passengers flying further. This is significant, because so much of the cost involved is concerned with getting people on and off the aeroplanes, whether they fly 200 miles or 10,000.

The Civil Aviation Authority has reported that the first-class and business fares across the Atlantic from London are now the highest from the five major European airports, whereas years ago those from the UK were the lowest. When the author-

ity relaxed control on the economy fares in 1992, BA, American and United all raised the New York fare from a range of £269-£349 to a uniform £422. This is nudging twice-cost and the authority reported recently that agreements between the airlines had continued to have their effect. Consequently it has reimposed price control on London-US economy fares. About 30 per cent of passengers buy these "on demand" fares.

On the other hand, there is "rat race" competition in selling off surplus seats in the rear cabin at below-cost, discounted fares. The proposed alliance attacks this profit leak by opening up some 36,000 connecting routes from continental cities to US destinations, and vice versa, because the rear cabin continental fares (as opposed to first and business) are much higher. So with the new generation computerised selection systems BA and AA will be able to replace low-revenue British passengers by more profitable continentals.

As the financial director of Stagecoach explained in your columns, the only rational objective for business is maximisation of long-term owner value, measured in purely financial terms. Yours faithfully,
A. J. LUCKING,
20/17 Broad Court, WC2.

No alternative

From Mr W. W. Brimston
Sir, No surprise, Mr Lloyd, (Bank customers have to pay a high price for modern technology, August 6). Banks always were masters of usury. Now they are gearing up to become masters of electronic usury. Mr Lloyd was lucky that an alternative was available. When the banks get into full electronic swing there will be none. Yours faithfully,
W. W. BRIMSTON,
88 Morris Road,
Lockleaze, Bristol.

only a vague reference to reviewing the tax system survived.

As Mr Norman has astutely recognised, the company car is often used, like social class, as a means of marking out tiny gradations of hierarchy and status between individual employees. Whether a colleague has been offered a 1.5 or a 1.6, a GTI or a GLX, with or without a sunroof, is still part of the meat and drink of office chit chat.

David Leibling, head of corporate communications at Lex, said: "It is very difficult to find anyone who has voluntarily given up their cars. Our research shows that the number of people losing their company cars for reasons other than retirement or a move of job is infinitesimal."

"Out of 2.7 million company car drivers at the end of 1994, only 30,000, or 1 per cent, had lost them because of a change in company policy. So many people are dependent on them to do their everyday jobs. About 80 per cent of sales people do more than 20,000 miles a year and would be very reluctant to give up their cars. This is a high-profile PR exercise by Archie Norman."

JONATHAN PRYNN
Transport Correspondent

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21 1996

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Shares close near their best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
56	41	Alfred Brown	56	0	0	10
120	100	Brewery (B)	120	0	0	10
120	100	Brewery (B)	120	0	0	10
120	100	Brewery (B)	120	0	0	10
120	100	Brewery (B)	120	0	0	10

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

TEXTILES & APPAREL

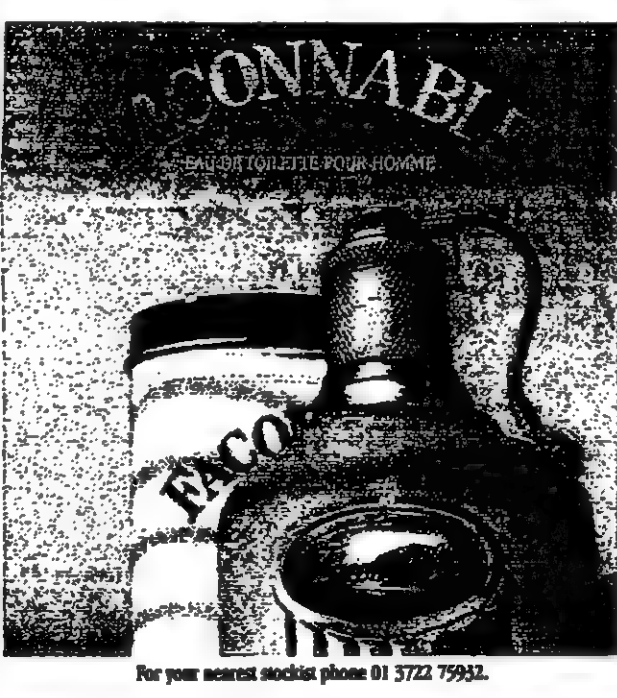
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37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10

RETAILERS FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10
37.18	37.00	Bank of America	37.18	0.18	0.5	10



For your nearest stockist phone 01 5722 7992.

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Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

BATTERSEA
£16 - £18,000 neg

No commuting! This small service orientated company need an administrator to run the head office. Based in an impressive riverside development you will act as PA to the MD and be the central point of contact. 80/55 st/ls. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**VENTURE BANKING**
£21,000 + benefits

American investors based in the west end require a second jobber with either a financial background or experience of liaising internationally. Assisting two high flyers you will enjoy variety within a fast paced environment. Languages useful. 55wpm typing. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**ADMINISTRATOR**
£20,000

A small design company need your organisational skills to keep the office and designers in order. This responsible and interesting role includes negotiation with suppliers, invoicing, archiving and secretarial support to the MD. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**MANAGEMENT PA**
£23,000

Assisting one of the most senior people in this large international / administrative support you will provide secretarial / administrative support to your boss. Speed, tact and diplomacy are required to handle an ever changing day. 55wpm typing. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**PA TO MD**
£22,000

Organise corporate events, liaise with overseas offices and ensure the office runs smoothly in the MD's absence. 1:2 role in a leading city company where flexibility and confidence are your greatest assets. 90wpm shorthand / 50wpm typing. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**EXECUTIVE PA****£20,000 + MS + BENS**

An exciting opportunity exists within a leading City Institution for a PA/Secretary to work for senior management. As well as providing secretarial support, this role involves considerable client liaison and organising corporate events. A team player with knowledge of Microsoft Office is required.

Please contact Margaret Sorohan

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242JONATHAN WREN
secretaries**2ND JOBBER PA****to £19,000 + Ms + BENS**

Excellent opening for a PA/Secretary with a minimum of two years' work experience to assist this Director within a leading Investment Bank. The position will involve heavy administration, client liaison and presentation work. The ideal candidate will be aged 22-26 with MS Office experience and a confident personality.

Please contact Melinda Marks

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242JONATHAN WREN
secretaries**Richmond Powerpoint****£20,000 + Great Bens!**

Exciting, fast-paced and fun... international, household-name company needs a fantastic senior secretary to assist a newly-appointed, young director. Enthusiasm, flexibility and great computer skills are essential for you to become a crucial part of this dynamic team. If working to deadlines is second nature and you love using Powerpoint, please call Fiona Mackay on 0171 434 4512

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**PA to Chief Exec****City Trading****to £25,000 + bonus**

Stylish, thriving company requires an energetic and motivated individual. Your first class secretarial skills plus your ability to co-ordinate and organise will be stretched to the full as you manage the Chief Exec's ever changing schedule and arrange events and conferences. There is plenty of scope to take on specific projects and expand your responsibilities. Hours: 8.30 - 7.00 Skills: 100 sh/60 typing, Windows. Banking/trading experience essential. Age 25-35. Please call Vanessa Mitchell on 0171 390 7000

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**MORE THAN SECRETARIAL...**

TRIST KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES!
£18k - RACING PUNDITS - 2 young Directors need a down to earth, flexible secretary with strong admin skills and good telephone manner.
£18k - ADMINISTRATIVE WHIZZ - Property Management Company needs a bright, confident, well organised assistant, must be able to drive in London.
£20k - PR & INTERIOR DESIGN - MD needs a true PA with a new Interior Design exp. Attend trade fairs, oversee marketing & PR functions. Most drive.
£25k - PA to CEO - International IT Co require a right hand person who can attend business meetings and lighten his load. Spanish or German useful.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES E

0171 468 0400

PA to Chief Executive**Major Multinational**

£30,000 + substantial package
The highly regarded Chief Executive of a major multinational is looking for an outstanding Graduate PA to join his team.
As well as all the normal functions expected of a top PA you will need to be able to present and maintain and resolve a variety of issues. The role will be to be able to drive in London. PA preferably with an international, financial or commercial background and looking for a significant step in their career. Intelligent, wide knowledge of current affairs and real commitment are all essential skills. 90 sh/60 typing. Please fax your CV to Angela Mortimer on 0171 814 0800.
Each Applicant is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants are invited to interview.

Angela Mortimer

Executive Secretary
Director needs EA for day-to-day running of property development, financial affairs, a small charity or misc. business affairs.
Office in converted 17th century barn in Chiswick. Graduate or equiv. 25-34. Short hand, computer lit. Financial/accounting skills. CV experience in senior level. In a major firm essential. Approx 3 day week. £15,000.
Please fax 01933 873333

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
CULTURAL PA!
£20K + 15% Pay Rise!
For a cultured and well spoken person with excellent organisational skills. 25-34. Must be a graduate or equiv. with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a senior position. Must be able to handle a heavy workload and be able to work under pressure. Must be able to handle a heavy workload and be able to work under pressure. Must be able to handle a heavy workload and be able to work under pressure.
17-21, Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341. Facsimile: 0171 734 7360

WA up to 25k + Bonus + Bens.
IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE
Based in fabulous Mayfair offices, this prestigious Executive Search firm requires a bright, confident PA to support two friendly Consultants. This firm is one of the most successful in its field with offices throughout the world. You must be switched on, capable and well organised as you liaise with clients and get involved in all aspects of the ongoing assignments. You must be quick to learn, able to use your own initiative when handling queries arising during the selection process. You will be well paid and delegated to carry out your business and with an excellent annual bonus as well as pension, PPP, STJ, you will be well rewarded for your efforts.
0 1 7 1 2 2 5 1 8 8 8
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

WA £22,000 + Bkg. Bens.
GRADUATE SECRETARY
"Human Resources"
We are desperately seeking a proactive graduate calibre Secretary with 2 years' secretarial experience. Working in a team environment, your responsibilities will be diverse and will range from handling all the recruitment admin, talking to agencies and great computer skills are essential for you to become a crucial part of this dynamic team. If working to deadlines is second nature and you love using Powerpoint, please call Fiona Mackay on 0171 434 4512
0 1 7 1 2 2 5 1 8 8 8
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
required for busy insurance brokers near Tower Bridge. Word for Windows essential as is the ability to work under pressure. Package to include 4 weeks holidays and a responsible salary.
If you are interested in working for a young, dynamic, rapidly expanding company with a friendly working environment then call Collins on 0171 237 1400. A vacancy also available in our York office.
(No agencies).

Human Resources
£17,000 Paid Travel & Bens
An opportunity to join this well-known multinational supporting two managers focused in Recruitment, Training and Compensation & Benefits. Responsibilities include training co-ordination, administration of benefit schemes, processing recruitment documentation, updating HR database & general secretarial support. Would suit if you enjoy working in a progressive & challenging environment & have an interest in HR. Skills 50 wpm+.
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THE RECRUITMENT COMPANY
5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AL

SECRETARY TO DESIGN DIRECTOR
£17k - £18k + Benefits
Hands up those of you who want to work in a creative team! This dynamic director and team need A1 secretarial support. NO SHORTHAND. Ideally you will be available immediately, have 80 wpm and good Word for Windows.
SEC/ADMIN ASSISTANT
c£18k Plus 5 Weeks Holiday, Bonus & Paid Overtime
If you want the security of working for a bank but cannot stand the City then this may fit the bill. Based in the West End you will provide full secretarial support to a team of Researchers so your day will be varied and very busy! Word 6.0, Excel, Powerpoint or Freelance and Finance experience essential. Age 25-35.

SUCCESSFUL TEMPING
Professional companies
Rely on us
Overtime rates
Steady work
Prizes galore
Excellent advice
Ready, Steady, go!
If you have good shorthand and audio skills, are aged between 20-40 and have a good working knowledge of Windows packages - it's time we talked to you.
0171 734 3484
or Fax us on 0171 734 8501

Windows Whizz
£18 neg
Hastings Road
For the City Court Reporting Co (for Award Winning Software) Admin it is the technical support, training clients, preparing documents, also daily production of disc transcripts. Hours, practical troubleshooting, computer literacy, with sympathetic but strict approach. Lengthy day but 4 day week. Car driver.
Gale Associates want to talk to you about their latest vacancies.
Senior Legal PA's - £20000. Receptionists - £15k. Gale Assoc. Rec Cons 0171 439 1188

SECRETARY
£17,500 + Exc Bens
To work for top law firm serving in WC2. WPM 60. Audio. Powerpoint, Excel, Word 6.0. Young team, involved. Working for 2 weeks, overseas travel, and occasional training course. Interested? Call Lisa Power now on 0171 499 8112

career moves
PA TO CHAIRMAN
MUSIC COMPANY
£25,000
An involving role that will see you using all your experience of either working in the Music or Media industries. Assisting the Chairman, you will be working at the highest levels and consequently you will need quick reactions and superb organisational and communication skills. Must have several years' experience in a senior position. Director Level exp and S/P skills.
SECRETARY FOR CEO
LARGE TV MEDIA
ORGANISATION to £19,000
A corporate or media background secretarial background will be fine for this interesting and important role at top Co. Strong sec skills (min 50 wpm S/P) are essential along with quick thinking processes as you work alongside the chief exec and Assistant. Outgoing professional approach with good sense of humour essential. Past moving office!!!!
PERSONNEL SECRETARIES
TV/MEDIA £15,000
With a minimum of 1 years secretarial exp and a keen interest in personnel you will make headway into this field at large company. Every opportunity to use your brain and assist a Personnel manager. Good people skills essential - good level of education!
Sutherland House, 5-6 Argyle Street, London W1V 1AD.
Tel: 0171 536 6411, Fax: 0171 434 0297

SECRETARY WC2
£16,000 + bonus
An opportunity to join a dynamic team, working for a well established and successful commercial property co. where there is always something new happening. Just the role for you if you like variety and involvement, are well organised and can handle the phone. Audio/MSW/PC skills must be good & training given in Excel. Age 25-30. For a great new job, not to mention annual bonus, call us now.
Australian Staff Connections
0171 938 3800

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT
FOR CITY AND WEST END INTERVIEWS
0171 734 3484
or Fax us on 0171 734 8501

SUPERB OPPORTUNITIES
GRADUATE SEC/ADMIN IN COMPLIANCE, SW1
- £20,000 p.a. + Exc Bens. Asset Management co req good admin/sec exp (2 yrs+). W4W and Excel plus excel manner. Age 25-35.
PA to F.D. ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING, W4
- £18,500 p.a. Nurseries finance PA with 50wpm SH. RSAH or equiv. Good SOH exp. Age 25+.
SEC/PA to M.D. & F.D., GREENFORD - £18,000 p.a. Full PA support. No SH. Spreadsheets exp. Age 25-40.
RECRUITMENT SEC, WC2 - £18,000 p.a. Good SOH exp. type 60 wpm + good tel manner. Age 28-38.
RESEARCH/MARKETING SEC, SE1 - £17,000 p.a. Young media sec with advanced Powerpoint and W4W. Age 25-35.
Call Anna or Wendy on 0171 420 8008 (Fax 0171 420 8044)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/PA
Basic salary to £19,000 PA plus TOP benefits
This worldwide organisation is currently looking to recruit experienced PA's to work for their international executives. These interesting roles require conference organisation, travel arrangements and ad hoc projects in addition to secretarial responsibilities and Powerpoint presentations.
Benefits include: 25 days holiday, social events, on-site gymnasium, car parking, 2 minutes from underground station, prestigious location, paid overtime and expenses, pension, share option, private health and more.
Please contact Jayne Wade - Director
Harris Jones Creative, 3 The Quadrant,
Richmond, TW9 1BP. Tel: 0181 332 2622
Fax: 0181 332 7902

DTP Operators x 2
Frankfurt - Germany £20,000 p.a. + O/T
Working for an international Merchant Bank for MINIMUM 1 YEAR contract. You must be fluent German/English and possess an excellent knowledge of MS Office. You will have a fair for producing high quality presentations and graphics work. Interviews are to be held at the Company's London office. Assistance in seeking accommodation. Commencing Sep/Oct 1996. Call Karen Thomas.

Devonshire appointments
7 Birdan Lane, London EC3V 9BY
Tel: 0171 626 2150 Fax: 0171 626 2092
The Devonshire Group plc

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
£19,000 + bank bens
Supporting the Head of Investment Management. Must be superb organiser with senior level exp and really on the ball! W4W, Excel and Powerpoint exp. Call Sarah Turnbull
Tel: 0171 588 8999
Aldrich & Co Ltd
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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■ EDINBURGH

At the Film Festival a fine British feature debut, *Gallivant*, catches the eye...



■ EDINBURGH

... while Gillies MacKinnon's *Trojan Eddie* is a tale of Irish rogues written by Billy Roche

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ EDINBURGH

The Martha Graham Dance Company brings its founder's early work to the festival



■ EDINBURGH

... and Britten's *War Requiem* receives a stunning performance under the baton of Donald Runnicles

The Edinburgh Film Festival began life as a documentary showcase and, says Geoff Brown, that's where it still shines

Fantasy found wanting, but reality bites

Scaffolding and blue sheeting jut out into the pavement and block off the frontage of Filmhouse, the hub cinema of what is now proudly called the Edinburgh Film Festival. A bad time, surely, to have the builders in. But appearances deceive. The scaffolding and sheeting turn out to be an "installation", one of several by Wendy Hardie designed to bring a festive touch to the cinema on Lorian Road.

The bar decor turns the clock back 50 years to pay homage to Rita Hayworth and the Technicolor frenzy of *Black Narcissus*. The delegates' room, in black and silver, aims for postwar Neo-Realism, although the end result leans more towards a tacky Art Deco night club.

In 1947, when the festival first started, there was no such hanky-panky. It was called the International Festival of Documentary Films, and a picture of a miner at the coalface decorated the programme booklet. One fictional feature, Rossellini's *Paisa*, crept into the first year's selection, but audiences spent most of their time watching *Health for Denmark*, *Here is the Gold Coast* and the latest films by Britain's documentary masters, Paul Rotha and Humphrey Jennings.

Documentaries still get special treatment at Edinburgh, but changing times and economics mean the festival now strives to be everything to all men, all women, and the trans-gendered too. It wants to be populist. It wants to be gritty. It wants to be radical. It wants to be serious. It wants to be fun. This is surely too much ambition for one film festival



to manage, especially when its budget, its status, and its position on the festival calendar mean that the cream of the celluloid crop has already been premiered elsewhere.

The exception is British cinema. For the second year running the festival is hosting New British Expo, an event for industry delegates that screens every British feature-length film, cream or dross, made during the past year. The public sees a cross-section too, from worthy dramas orientated towards television to the arcane imaginings of the British Film Institute.

But give it its due: the BFI has actually come up with one of the festival's best surprises. This is Andrew Kotting's *Gallivant*, an unclassifiable first feature in which the director, previously known for his short films, takes his seven-year-old daughter and 90-year-old grandmother on a trip around Britain's coastline from Bexhill-on-Sea, in East Sussex, down to Cornwall, up to the wilds of John O'Groats, and down to Bexhill again. Kotting's daughter has Joubert's syndrome, which restricts her communication to sign language; and much of the film's emotional power comes from the sight of the elderly and the young bonding

together, with their differing frailties.

But the only expedition member who came to harm was Kotting himself. He shattered his ankle: a penalty, perhaps, for playing about, which he is too apt to do on camera. But you accept the indulgence, and an over-generous running-time, for the film's quantities of human quirks and visual beauty. Seascapes and clouds seud by in fast motion. The eye lingers on the stout legs and sensible shoes of Newquay's good ladies, playing bowls. Locals try stinging O'ke's *Ken John Peel*. Sociology, geography, family drama, cinematic poetry, *Gallivant* is a multi-dimensional experience, and it makes Edinburgh's other new British films seem very flat.

Even Gillies MacKinnon could not compare. After his success at Edinburgh last year with *Small Faces*, hopes were high for *Trojan Eddie*, a tale of Irish rascals written by Billy Roche. It is good, to be sure, but not that good: you spend a long while slipping between slivers of characters and events before swallowing a big hunk of drama. Stephen Rea, hangdog look to the fore, plays the title character, a market stall seller of trinkets. Richard Harris is the Mr Big who invites being cuckolded by taking a much younger wife (Aislinn McGuckin). Smartly directed and beautifully photographed in settings of urban grunge, *Trojan Eddie* makes you glad that a film can still be made in Ireland without sinking in period nostalgia; but it never quite packs the expected punch.

Nick Broomfield, at least, does not disappoint in *Fetters*, which stirred up



It is directed by Gillies MacKinnon, written by Billy Roche and features face-with-a-future Aislinn McGuckin, but *Trojan Eddie* just misses the mark.

some mild pre-festival controversy by being "the film that Channel 4 dared not show". Since the subject-matter is an S&M parlour called Pandora's Box in New York City, the spectacle necessarily gets a bit rough; although any revulsion at watching Wall Street brokers encased in rubber or plunged into a lavatory is wiped out by the sad realisation that these people are brought to such extremes to satisfy their emotional needs.

As usual in his documentaries, much of the available fun comes from watching Broomfield, sound equipment primed, poke his seemingly innocent face into a hornet's nest. He asks ingenious ques-

tions; he needles. A pet lizard bites the cameraman. Broomfield himself shifts ground during filming from being an uneasy observer of an alien world to a mildly sympathetic explorer of one more human peculiarity. The film is funny, disturbing and usefully informative.

Peter Greenaway was also a mine of information when he appeared for one of the festival's "Scene by Scene" events and took us through the complexities of his new film, *The Pillow Book*. Greenaway calmly tossed out the provocative thought that after 100 years cinema is waiting to be

reborn as a purely visual experience. He longs for a cinema not tethered to words or narratives plodding from A to Z: our own minds, he argues, never work in a straight line.

He has a point, although in Edinburgh we did not need Greenaway to remind us of cinema's failures. We had but to look at *Tattoo Boy*, a pallid tale of teenage hustlers from a young American hopeful, 21-year-old Larry Turner; or Andrea Weiss's survey of gay life on British screens, *A Bit of Scarlet*, a local answer to *The Celluloid Closet* that queers its pitch, so to speak, by avoiding historical perspective, mixing cinema fiction

with factual TV, and larding everything with facetiousness. Festivals are always a lucky dip. That is their frustration: that is their joy. With the current surge of confidence Down Under, it came as no surprise to find an Australian crowd-pleaser like Nadia Tass's *Mr Reliable*, a droll, real-life tale about an ex-con and his girl who drift into siege warfare with the bungling police.

But who would have expected rich rewards from footage shot in the Dutch East Indies between 1912 and the early 1930s? In the engrossing *Mother Dao*, the *Turtelike*, Vincent Monnikendam roams through the film legacy of the

colonial years: endless documentaries showing natives as "useful citizens", working in factories, converting to Christianity. The camera keeps a safe distance from their faces, only moving in to show the effects of disease. There is no commentary: the soundtrack blends Indonesian music and poetry with ambient noise (useful for getting your thoughts about colonial exploitation in order).

Visually, the material is often remarkably beautiful. *Mother Dao* played at several festivals last year, so Edinburgh is lagging behind. Still, it was good to catch it: this is one film that will never play the multiplexes.

Martha's vignette

DANCE

Martha Graham
Dance Company
Playhouse

Now that Mark Morris and Jiri Kylian have had their say, the Edinburgh Festival is looking back more than 60 years to showcase the work of one of the greatest pioneers of dance. Martha Graham died five years ago, but she left behind a company. Its two programmes at the Playhouse, entitled *Radical Graham*, focus on her early work, those incredibly fertile years in the Twenties, Thirties and Forties when she almost single-handedly reshaped the course of dance.

Radical she certainly was. You only have to look at *Serenata Morisca*, the solo Graham performed with Denishawn in the 1920s, to see how far she had to travel from the exotic stillation of her early life as a performer. By the time she produced *Errand into the Maze* in 1947 Graham had become a revolutionary who made dance speak of profound ideas with a bruising directness and in a wholly original movement language.

Lamentation, made in 1930, announced Graham's arrival. This ground-breaking solo, famously remembered for the swathe of stretch fabric that encases the dancer in a woolly cocoon, still startles as a "dance of sorrow". Graham not only found an exorcising

rawness in her choreography (something that Katherine Crockett could not quite manage on opening night, she also discovered a genius for sculpting hugely emotive shapes with the human body. Some of her ballets look better than others. *Cave of the Heart*, her 1946 dramatisation of the Medea story, seems unnecessarily heavy-handed in its use of gesture. But *Errand into the Maze*, in which Graham uses the myth of Ariadne and the Minotaur to illustrate the conquering of fear, is alive with a palpably churning tension in Christine Dakin's performance.

More than most, *Diversion of Angels* (made in 1948 to a Norman Dello Joio score) looks at home in 1996, swept up by a choreographic buoyancy that animates the stage in the person of the three female leads who represent different aspects of love. Red (Fang-Yi Sheu) is defiantly erotic; Yellow (Alessandra Prospero) is the adolescent,

hasty and unformed; White (a very elegant Crockett) is mature love. In perfect balance (literally, in choreographic terms) between head and heart. The men, as so often the case with Graham, are required to be little more than hunky, bare-chested supports for the women.

One of the reasons for Graham's enormous impact was her canny choice of collaborators. One artist in particular, the sculptor Isamu Noguchi, created sets that grew out of, and were part of, her dance.

From *El Penitente* to *Errand into the Maze*, from *Cave of the Heart* to *Appalachian Spring*, Noguchi created tactile environments of extraordinary visual potency. On the Playhouse stage they look wonderful.

How far accuracy has been compromised in some of the reconstructions of Graham's choreography is a point to consider. *Celebration*, for example, is almost certainly not now what it was in 1935, although it's still a lot of fun with its 457 jumps in six minutes (and its chic Donna Karan frocks).

And the three *Sketches from Chronicle* may or may not be true to their 1936 antecedents. But who cares when the result is as stunning



The "astounding" Terese Capucilli, in red, dances one of Martha Graham's *Sketches from Chronicle* (1936)

as this bulldozing piece for an all-female ensemble? *Chronicle* rails against war and its deprivation in fierce, mesmerising blocks of movement that resonate first with fear and horror, and then with resolve. It ends with the astounding

Terese Capucilli — bloodied but unbowed — framed by a corps of women at last empowered to go forward into the future. Sixty years old, it remains a knockout.

DEBRA CRAINE

Doughty warriors go into battle for Britten

MUSIC

War Requiem
Usher Hall

began self-consciously, as though Runnicles was concerned more to demonstrate how quietly he could get the chorus to utter the opening words than actually to give voice to them and their meaning. Quietness remained a special feature of the interpretation, but never again with that negative kind of effect. The just-perceptible choral entries on *Quam olim Abraham* towards the end of the Offertorium and the luminous contrapuntal textures of the rest of that section were as thrilling, in their quiet

thing between, with such unquestionable accuracy in pitch and dynamic level was a tribute to both the quality of its training and its personal dedication to the score. Complemented by the voices of the RSNO Junior Chorus, floating angelically down from the corridor of the grand circle, the choral singing was the principal and always truthful messenger of the deliberately

unsensational and yet intensely focused purpose of Runnicles's interpretation.

In accordance with Britten's original intentions, the soloists were a British tenor, a German baritone, and a Russian soprano — although the audience clearly favoured Thomas Quasthoff who, to his embarrassment, was left to take a bow by himself. All three of them sang quite beautifully. It was Elena Prokina's shaping of the Verdian soprano line in *Lacrimosa* that raised the slowly developing emotional progression on to a new level, and all the more effectively when merging into Anthony Rolfe Johnson's discreetly compassionate *Move him into the sun*. The combination of Rolfe Johnson and Quasthoff in *So Abram rose* was the most disturbing experience of a generally devastating evening.

GERALD LARNER

Off the wall, on the ball

Kate Bassett laughs all the way from the sublime to the ridiculous among the stand-up comics

Be warned. Very few of the hordes of comics on the Edinburgh Fringe are crying funny. Bill Bailey, however, is a hoot. As the audience trundle to their seats in the Assembly Rooms, he is already going wild, long hair flying, letting rip on a synthesizer which is clutched in a giant model hand. Have we walked into some solo Goth rock gig?

Bailey certainly looks like a paunchy Hell's Angel, large round face like a bearded moon. But this bloke is not exactly head-banging. He is bobbing about, churning out frenzied life-music, raised eyebrows just visible above those big polystyrene fingers. He is some lunatic organism. By the end, he is doing Richard Clayderman in Concert.

atmospheric soundtracks and anthems. The quavery *Dr Who* theme tune mutates into mindlessly naïf Belgian jazz. *Eve of the Tiger* reveals its true identity as a load of jiggling cockney cobbles, rattled off like a ditty from *The Good Old Days*. Rocking and ridiculous.

Meanwhile at the Gilded Balloon II, *The Cheese Shop* are six young chaps in shirts and ties returning to the old-school format of comic sketches. Some of these — skits on yelling monks or ping-pong clubs taken over by cult leaders — need sharpening

up. But these boys have natural energy and abandon, prancing through their mock-West End musical number, *Satan and Jesus* giving each other hugs and doing the hup.

Dylan Moran at *The Pleasure Over the Road* the Gilded Balloon and Pleasure seem to be spawning countless satellite venues) is more brilliant. With a touch of Eddie Izzard, his observational comedy about growing up in Ireland veers off unexpectedly into loopy fantasies about living with old ladies underground and sucking stones for money. He sounds as if he is wittering, but his turns of phrase and non sequiturs are sharply funny. Never mind that his memory goes blank occasionally, faced with an hour-long slot. He has unspoilt charm and an inspired zany imagination.

KATE BASSETT

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Gateway to the Silk Road, Heartland and Christina Robertson are at the City Art Centre, 2 Market Street (0131-559 3993) until October 5. Arthur Melville is at the Bourse Fine Art, 6 Dundas Street (0131-557 4000) until August 31. William Geissler is at Edinburgh College of Art, Lauriston Place (0131-227 4000) until August 31.



THEATRE

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TOMORROW

Can Arnie save the world again? Read Geoff Brown on *Eraser* and the week's other new films

Too New York for London?

Matt Wolf meets the playwright hoping for a warmer British welcome this time

Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles*, opening next week at Greenwich Theatre, remains one of the most acclaimed American plays of the 1980s. But it is characteristic of England's not always generous treatment of this author that her play is only now being seen in the city where much of it was written a decade ago.

At the time Wasserstein was writing at the Nell Gwynn House in Chelsea, courtesy of a grant from the British-American Arts Association. Since then the writer has become one of New York's few bona fide commercial playwrights, and is more likely when in London to stay at the Savoy. *Heidi* not only brought Wasserstein her first Broadway success, the 1989 Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize included, but launched her on a separate career as public speaker, essayist and all-round agony aunt: a Brooklyn-born Jew turned mouthpiece for a nation's women.

Wasserstein's subsequent play, *The Sisters Rosensweig* (1992), actually got to London first — also to Greenwich, in a 1994 staging with Maureen Lipman and Janet Suzman that transferred successfully to the Old Vic. But though audiences responded to the play, which is indeed set in London, local critics were less kind. Several wondered whether hers was the stuff of distinctively New York voice that — like Neil Simon and Herb Gardner — does not always travel.

Such thoughts, unsurprisingly, do not sit well with Wasserstein, whose affection for London has yet to be returned. How else to explain the belated arrival of *Heidi*, in most people's view a stronger play than *Sisters Rosensweig*, after several false starts that, at various times, had Fiona Shaw and Elizabeth McGovern mooted to star in a London premiere?

Wasserstein knows the local objections to her work: too American, too Jewish, too "sentimental". What those detractors fail to recognise is her indebtedness to English drama — she cites both David Edgar's *Maydays* and David Hare's *Plenish* as influences on *Heidi* ("I thought of calling my play *Empy*," she jokes) — and to politics that leave placards and banners behind. "The only thing 'too New York' about *Heidi* is maybe my last name," says Wasserstein, 45, her remarks punctuated by wry, self-deprecating laughter.



Wendy Wasserstein: "I thought of *The Heidi Chronicles* as a story about a woman from the Midwest, the heartland, who has this set of values and then comes east"

As for being "too Jewish", she says that *Heidi* "is not a Jewish play at all. I thought of it as a story about a woman from the Midwest, someone from the heartland, who has this certain set of values and then comes east."

The play's Broadway star, Joan Allen, won a Tony nomination for playing Dr Heidi Holland, the art historian whose life leads her to the decision, as an adult woman nearing middle age, to adopt a child alone. A subsequent television version starred Jamie Lee Curtis. Susannah Harker (from *Pride and Prejudice*) inherits the part in London.

"Maybe the problem has been that Heidi has a baby at the end, so that's not seen as political enough," muses Wasserstein, whose ending inflamed some feminists in America. "A lot of women thought what I was saying was that to be happy, a woman has to have a baby alone."

Instead, she says: "I just thought, this is that woman's choice. Can anyone really tell me that all the women who have adopted children alone have made a wrong choice?"

The Heidi Chronicles, Wasserstein freely admits, "totally changed my life". After such off-Broadway hits as *Uncommon Women and Others* — which

began as her thesis play at the Yale Drama School, where Meryl Streep and Sigourney Weaver were contemporaries — and *Isn't It Romantic*, she reached the Broadway audience she had been a part of since she was nine.

But rather than write a play a year, as Neil Simon more or less has, Wasserstein takes her time, preferring to nurture each one through a developmental process beginning at the Seattle Repertory Theatre and on to the non-profit Lincoln Centre Theatre in New York. It is under the auspices

of Lincoln Centre that her next play, *An American Daughter*, will open on Broadway in March. And though no casting has been set, Streep and Whoopi Goldberg led an early New York reading.

Away from plays, Wasserstein writes for other art forms — a version of *The Nutcracker* for American Ballet Theatre; a children's book entitled *Pamela's First Musical* — and has a lucrative ancillary career on the celebrity speaker circuit. "I'm a relatively shy person," she explains, "and for shy people it's often easier to speak to 500 people than one-on-one, even if you do wonder whether the

women in the audience would want their daughters to grow up to be me — this single-woman playwright."

But though a film with director Nicholas Hytner, a close friend, is planned for next spring, Wasserstein's loyalties are to the stage. Writing for other media, she says, "voices get lost: it's very, very rare where you're not doing a glorified form of dictation. The theatre is the one place where there is at least a voice — where a writer can say, 'Wait a minute; we still merit attention.'"

● *The Heidi Chronicles* is in preview from tomorrow at the Greenwich Theatre (0181-658 1753), opening August 29

After La Bamba, caramba!

LOS LOBOS' role on the soundtrack of the hit 1987 movie *La Bamba*, which gave them an international No 1 that year with the title song, has proved to be a classic piece of miscasting.

The Hispanic-American group may have been the perfect choice to portray the songs of the 1950s Chicano rock 'n' roller Ritchie Valens, but that song has hung over them like a dark spirit ever since, blocking the light of the much richer creativity of subsequent albums. To recognise Los Lobos simply for *La Bamba* is akin to remembering Chuck Berry for *My Ding-a-Ling*.

This year's addition to their undervalued oeuvre is *Colossal Head*, a mighty beast with tentacles stretching to entwine all manner of rock references. The band, formed amid the richly Mexican heritage of East Los Angeles 23 years ago, were frequent visitors here during their

POP

Los Lobos
Borderline, W1

reluctant celluloid-inspired celebrity, but their Borderline appearance was their first UK show in several years. Shoe-horned on to the tiny stage, they started making up for lost time from the first thunderous note.

David Hidalgo and Cesar Rosas continue to lead the Los Lobos attack and it was Hidalgo who engineered an early strike with *Revolution*, the opening song on the current album. On stage as on disc, this guitar-based piece has an irresistibly slinky shuffle, made more alluring by Steve Berlin's saxophone and flute detail.

There were times when the band's sheer volume, with a canonade of guitars and often with two full drum kits, used a mallet to crack a nut. But for the most part, it was sheer energy and damn the eardrums, especially as they unlocked such treasures as *One Time One Night* and the glorious 1984 piece *Will the Wolf Survive?*

Hidalgo's accordion, an essential facet of Los Lobos' Hispanic personality, was restricted to one small set of Spanish songs two thirds through the show. But with that tool, they turn into the ultimate party band and you remember that you meant to ask them to play at your wedding. Next week, when they play at the Democrat convention, Bill Clinton gets the next best thing.

PAUL SEXTON

Laugh and learn

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

IF YOU missed out on last week's special weekend break offer to the Beverley Chamber Music Festival, then a taste of the Birmingham Autumn Arts Season might be more to your liking. For only £93 per person, a varied weekend is yours, starting on the evening of Friday, September 14 with a performance of Ben Jonson's brilliant Jacobean comedy, *The Alchemist* at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. It stars Simon Callow, Josie Lawrence and Tim Pigott-Smith. On Saturday night, by total contrast, you will enter the world of Victorian beauty and elegance that awaits in an exclusive private reception in the Round Room of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. This is the setting for a magnificent collection of Pre-Raphaelite art in an exhibition entitled *Visions of Love and Life*. To complete the evening, a vocal ensemble, Ex Cathedra, will perform songs from the time, and Pre-Raphaelite poetry will be recited in front of the appropriate canvases. Wine and canapés will also be served.

The weekend break includes two nights' accommodation with full English breakfast at any of these four-star hotels: the Copthorne Hotel, the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza or the Forte Post House in Birmingham city centre. For more information or to book, telephone 0121-693 6300 (Mon-Sat 9.30am to 6pm, Sun 10am to 4pm), quoting your Theatre Club membership number

LONDON

Café Royal

● AS WITH many nuptials, *Joey & Gina's Wedding* has been postponed. So our offer for this hilarious satire — with audience participation — is now in operation from Sept 4 to 29. Tickets for all performances except Saturdays are £25 (normally £36.50) to £99.50, including an Italian banquet. Tel 0171-287 4433

GLASGOW

Trou Theatre

Aug 28, Sept 1
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7.50) to *Parallel Lines*, an adaptation of Molly Bloom's soliloquy in Joyce's *Ulysses*. Tel 0141-852 4267

SOUTH SHIELDS

The Custom House

Sept 5-7
● SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £9.50) to *Glad All Over*, which follows a group of friends as they

OTHER OFFERS

celebrate England's 1996 World Cup victory. Tel 0191-454 1234

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
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Aug 27-29

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8 to £12) for John Godber's musical comedy, *Starkers*. Tel 0191-232 0699

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Sept 2-7

● TWO stall or dress circle seats for the price of one (normally £10 to £14) for evening performances of the comedy, *Sailor Beware*. Tel 0115 948263

SOUTHAMPTON

The Mayflower

Aug 26-29

● SAVE £3.50 on the top three

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prices (normally £18.50 to £25 for *Crazy For You*, starring Tim Flavin and Fiona Benjamin. Tel 0703 7181)

● SAVE on tickets to West End shows over the bank holiday weekend. To book, please call the listed number, quoting your club membership number. Tickets subject to availability

Phoenix, WC2, Aug 23 (7.45pm), 24 (4pm), 26 (7.45pm). *Blood Brothers*. £22.50 (normally £27.50). Tel 0171-369 1733

Queens, W1, Aug 23 (8pm), 24 (3pm), 26 (8pm). *Passion*. £22.50 (normally £30). Tel 0171-494 5940

Old Vic, SE1, Aug 23 (7.30pm), 24 (3pm), 26 (7.30pm). *An Ideal Husband*. £16 (normally £24). Tel 0171-425 6655

Haymarket, SW1, Aug 23 (8pm), 24 (3pm), 26 (8pm). *The Odd Couple*. £16 (normally £24). Tel 0171-930 8800

It had to be ewes...



IF *Spring*, Linde Climo's depiction of dancing ewes, seems oddly familiar (top), it is probably because the American artist has based her 1992 oil painting on the masterpiece of the same name by the 15th-century Florentine artist, Sandro Botticelli (below).

Climo has made a career out of reworking the paintings of Old Masters, mainly by replacing the human figures in them with ewes and rams. Some 23 of her works are on show until December 1 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC.

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

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RACING: FIVE-YEAR-OLD EARNS ROUSING RECEPTION AFTER DOUBLE FEAT

Halling plays to the crowd

By JULIAN MUNCAT

THE British Turf hailed a new emperor at York yesterday when Halling, a veteran with the limbs of youth, dominated the Juddmonte International Stakes in a manner rarely witnessed at championship level.

In dictating the pace from the start, Halling shattered the International race record by 1.54sec — the equivalent of about eight lengths — to land the event for the second consecutive year. Added to that his consecutive victories in the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown and you have the consummate ten-furlong performer now unbeaten in his last eight races on grass.

As much was evident from the reception accorded Halling and his ever-present jockey, Lanfranco Dettori. They do not salute wooden horses in Yorkshire and the gallery's enthusiasm matched anything it has celebrated over the last decade. Dettori, as is his wont, was to orchestrate the show with his now-trademark flying dismount.

It takes much to animate the sizeable Maktoum entourage. Halling had them smiling broadly during the race. Dettori intimated them with joy as he embraced first Sheikh Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai, and then Sheikh Mohammed, the emirate's Crown Prince. The government should mouth a diplomatic role on its Middle Eastern desk for the day Dettori returns.

Dettori, recently returned from a fractured elbow, is at present on a winning streak. This was his second group one victory in 48 hours and he is genuinely a jockey who can make the difference. He dictated



Dettori signals his delight as Halling storms clear in the Juddmonte International Stakes at York yesterday

ed fractions which ensured his command from the front, yet which left plenty in reserve for the finishing kick. Just as the chasing pack closed up early in the home straight, Dettori gave Halling his head and the horse extended his lead to win by three lengths.

Typically, the jockey deflected all the praise towards his equine partner. "He relaxed, he's got a turn of foot, a combination of pace and stamina — he's just brilliant," Dettori said. "I didn't want to let him down until the end. I had a look one furlong from home and he was finished. This

horse can go down to a mile or up to 12 furlongs. He is that versatile."

Twelve months ago, Halling beat a champion miler in Bahri; this year, he may have beaten another in First Island, himself an authoritative in the Sussex Stakes three weeks ago. Geoff Wragg, who trains First Island, simply said of his outclassed runner-up: "He ran his race but had no chance with the winner."

Halling's connections now have an important choice to make. The horse could round off his career in the ten-furlong Champion Stakes,

which appears to be his mercy. Alternatively, his sights could be raised to the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and Breeders' Cup Turf, both over 12 furlongs.

Although that trip would undoubtedly stretch Halling's stamina, he may have the flair to pull it off. In that event, his entry into legend would be secure.

The equation may be influenced by Godolphin's standing in the race for the trainers' championship in Britain. Halling's triumph elevated the stable to the top of the pile, but Henry Cecil, the man usurped, responded immedi-

ately by saddling Dushyantor to land the Great Voltigeur Stakes.

Dushyantor fully merited his success after a turbulent season. His spirit survived a stormy passage in the Derby and an abortive mission for the Irish equivalent.

Dushyantor, too, is at the crossroads: connections must decide whether to aim him at the St Leger or to restrict him to 12 furlongs. Much depends, one suspects, on whether Dushyantor is for sale. For within the equine bloodbank, there is none so pure as his own.

Count on Corradini to uphold excellent Knavesmire record

YORK

CHANNEL 4

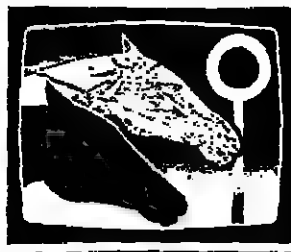
2.05: Swiss Coast, who failed by less than a length to defy top weight in a Redcar nursery 12 days ago, is preferred to Head Girl. Lynda Ramsden's runner has been a model of consistency without getting his head in front, and this represents a drop in class. Head Girl has registered two decent efforts at Newcastle but may appreciate further. The progressive Mill End Girl and Petite Danseuse are others to consider.

2.35: While in France at the weekend, I received plenty of encouragement for Shamadara and she has the necessary form to win a competitive Yorkshire Oaks. Just pipped by Dance Design in the Irish Oaks (Key Change), she can gain compensation here. Key Change finished just ahead of Shamadara in the Ribblesdale Stakes and the chances of John Oxx's filly would increase dramatically with rain. Papering recorded her best performance when runner-up to Last Second at Goodwood, while Sil Sila, the French Oaks winner, is another to consider.

3.10: The Barry Hills-Willie Carson combination took this race last year with Sammartino and they are represented this time with

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TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

easier by a 5lb penalty for his group two success. David Loder's Abou Zouh has been pleasing at home and I expect Nigrasine to run a big race at decent odds, but Les Eyre's unbeaten runner may find The West a tough nut to crack. The Gone West colt justified a tall home reputation when obliging on his debut at Goodwood.

4.15: Fahim holds a Champion Stakes entry and deserves to be followed until beaten after winning the hard way at Goodwood last time. Despite not having the best of runs, he produced a sparkling run of foot to land the spoils and the lightly-raced colt has scope for further improvement. Those looking for an each-way alternative may be tempted by Amrak Ajeeb, who ran creditably from a bad draw here in the Magnat Cup.

RICHARD EVANS

RACELINE	
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EXETER	103 203
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RACE RESULTS SERVICE 1.50	

YORK

THUNDERER

2.35 Swiss Coast

2.35 Shamadara

3.10 Snow Princess

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 2.35 SIL SILA.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 RUSSIAN SNOWS (nap), 3.10 Midnight Legend, 3.45 Abou Zouh.

GOING: GOOD

DRAW: SF-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

SIS

2.05 ROUS SELLING STAKES

(2-Y-O £11,575; 6) (21 runners)

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Getting their kicks as men behaving madly



Teesside danced the Headless Chicken after Ravanelli's debut hat-trick

Yes, but is it art? Let us call it the *pollo senza testa*, or the Headless Chicken, a dance performed by Fabrizio Ravanelli on three occasions last weekend. Each was a celebration of a goal as the Italian-born Teessider compiled a hat-trick on his first appearance for his new club, Middlesbrough.

The gist of the thing is to run about with your shirt pulled over your head. Not an original manoeuvre, but Ravanelli gave it a certain zest of his own while the fact that it was performed three times added to its memorable qualities.

Yes, but is it sport? Some have questioned the wisdom of exposing a naked chest in these volatile sporting times, and the referee, Paul Alcock, felt the need to have a quiet word. *Attenzione*, old chap. "The sight of a thoroughly exposed, grey-tufted torso is not necessarily an unpleasant experience," my old friend Sue Mott commented elsewhere with charmingly understated lubricity.

I rang the Football Associ-

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

ation to ask about grey-tufted torsos and found that it was remarkably relaxed about them. Taking your shirt actually off might incur its wrath, but three repetitions of the Headless Chicken were just fine. In fact, it was more worried about Robbie Fowler, whose own goal celebration involved some on-pitch embracing of Liverpool fans at the other end of the ground.

Two of the embracers, or embraces, were thrown out of the ground for the crime — it is, literally, a criminal offence — for stepping onto the pitch.

But the FA is right to allow what one might oxymorically call moderate excess. The National Football League, which runs American football, has been nicknamed the No Fun League for its crass and heavy-handed rules concerning on-pitch celebrations. Players who drop to their knees and mutter a prayer of thanks have been condemned along with the rest.

But in football — proper football, I mean — a goal is worth more than a touchdown, being a rarer species. And celebration is an inevitable response. In the stands, strangers embrace strangers, while on the pitch, hated teammates and beloved colleagues indiscriminately hug each other almost to death. This reached a point of lunacy when Tony Adams, of Arsenal, celebrated victory in the Coca-Cola Cup final by picking up one of the goalscorers, Steve Morrow,



Gascoigne, in the Dentist's Chair, and Sheringham on a tale of Hong Kong excess



The renowned Klinsmann Dive seemed to sum up all the joys of goalscoring

and hurling him to the ground like a javelin. Morrow broke his arm, left the pitch on a stretcher wearing an oxygen mask and was out for the season.

The story shows just how wild are the passions of football and how they all come to a head with a goal. I recall one emotional match in which I, a goalkeeper, was first to embrace the scorer, who, naturally enough, was at the opposite end of the pitch; I also remember scoring from a wind-blown punt-out and performing a complete lap of honour.

I was there for the historic moment when the Klinsmann Dive was first performed two seasons ago. It was a semi-private joke and the players had talked about doing it

before the match. But when it happened it seemed to sum up all the wild joys of scoring.

Gascoigne has managed two memorable prescribed celebrations in 12 months. One was the Dentist's Chair during the European championship, the re-enactment of the tale of Hong Kong excess on the Wembley turf.

The earlier celebration was his mime of a flute player after scoring for Rangers. English innocents called him the Pied Piper, but weary veterans of sectarianism knew he was celebrating the Orange Day March, as provocative a gesture as has been seen on a football field.

But away from such calu-

lated mischief-making, the goalscoring celebration is an aspect of the puerile joy that is forever football. You may recall with fondness Denis Law's gladiatorial salute to himself or Mick Channon's windmilling right arm.

Is there a boy, or a girl, in Britain who has not worked out what to do after scoring the winner at Wembley? Those that actually get to do it, whatever they do, they all do the same thing. They go off their heads. And good luck to them. They played Beethoven's Ninth at the European championship, but it was pure tautology. Football's own *Ode To Joy* is to be found in the myriad versions of the *pollo senza testa*, the goalscorer's gaviote of madness.

PARALYMPICS

Grey's experience pays off as she strikes gold

BY ALIX RAMSAY

REVENGE is sweet, and it is sweeter still when there is a gold medal involved. Late on Monday night, Tanni Grey had her first taste of gold in the 1996 Paralympics, taking the 800 metres T52 title and setting a world record of 1min 55.12sec. More to the point, Grey beat her main rival in the sprint events, Leann Shannon, of the United States, who took the silver medal.

Shannon had already taken Grey's 100 metres crown, won in Barcelona, a matter of hours before. At 27, Grey is positively veteran compared with Shannon, 14, and she was delighted with her victory. "It's nice to know I haven't lost it," she said. "After the 100 metres I knew I had to go hard to beat her. On the back straight I felt really good and I took her on the

final bend. After that it was easy."

Life has not been so easy for Steve Payton. On Monday night he won the gold medal in the 100 metres T37 class. It was his second gold of the Games and was won after a mere four hours sleep. After winning the 400 metres final on Sunday, Payton was whisked away for a routine drugs test, but the vast quantities of water he has been taking to help combat the heat and humidity in Atlanta meant that his sample was too diluted to register. He was finally released at 7am, just a few hours before the 100 metres heats.

In the swimming pool, James Anderson won the gold in the 100 metres freestyle, with his fellow Scot, Alan McGregor, taking the bronze.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 35

OPERCULUM

(a) The organ of a plant or animal that acts as a covering or lid. Could be used to describe the hat worn by one of these men who never go anywhere, or do anything, badless. Plainclothes policemen, at any rate on the television, are traditionally operculiferous. An even more extreme case is that of the man who wears his hat while actually driving his car. Be warned. Operculiferous drivers are dangerous. More so even than pipe-smoking, portable-telephoning or shaving drivers.

DECOCTION

(b) The Superior Person's word for soup. In essence, anything prepared by boiling something in water to extract its essence. N.B. soup can also be a concoction — provided that it contains more than one ingredient. Since a concoction is something prepared by cooking things in combination, or by combining things for some other purpose. A newspaper is a concoction.

KAMICHI

(a) The horned screamer, a South American bird. "And this is my wife Kay. Though I and my friends have an affectionate little Japanese pet name for her — Kamichi."

QUAESTUARY

(c) Someone whose first and foremost objective is profit. Somebody ruled exclusive by the profit and loss nexus. For example, a teenage son who will work in the garden only if paid to do so, and then resentfully.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

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RADIO CHOICE

Life that runs on wheels

My Life as a Car. Radio 4, 11.00pm.

Episode one of Mark Wallington's comedy series amusingly establishes the direction in which we will be travelling for the next six weeks. It should be a worthwhile journey provided Wallington can keep his vehicle in the gear (third, alternating with top) which he has selected for tonight's test-drive episode, and provided also that Phil Daniels continues to keep a firm grip on the steering wheel. Daniels plays the man — teenager, initially — whose ups and downs are decided by the cars he owns and drives over the years. He begins tonight with the two-tone Rover 1000 he inherited from his grandfather, in the back seat of which, with a market researcher, he ends his short reign as what he dolefully describes as "the only male virgin left in the British Isles".

Evening Concert. Classic FM, 8.00pm.

Except for Mendelssohn's *Fingal's Cave*, which doesn't really belong to the rest of the programme, all tonight's recordings feature Dame Janet Baker, that very fine mezzo soprano who retired from concert hall and opera house a few years ago. Today is her 63rd birthday: hence tonight's concert. Because she was an outstanding interpreter of Mahler and Bach, the inclusion of the former's five Ruckert songs and the latter's *Magnificat* in D were safe bets. She was also a celebrated exponent of Brahms, which accounts for the selection of his *Alto Rhapsody*.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Dave Pearce 9.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, live from the Esplanade in Woodlands 12.30pm Lisa (Hanson) 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Clive Wainman 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Festival Lounge, with Johnny Vaughan broadcasting from the Edinburgh Festival 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thwaiter 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Ralph McTell 8.00 The Hidden Tradition, Kathryn Tickell explores young musical talent (1/4) 8.30 Folk in the Footlights (4/5) 9.00 Frank Hennessey's Wales (5/6) 9.30 Noel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Leslie

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.35 The Magazine, with Diana Madi 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, incl 2.35, 3.15 and 3.45 Racing from York 4.00 National 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Trevor Brooking's Football Night, plus news from the Carling Premiership, action from the Rangers' European Cup preliminary round match against Alania Vladikavkaz 10.05 News Talk, with Jeremy Vine 10.35 Radio 5 Live at the Fringe, with Janice Forsyth 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am After Hours with John Diamond 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rieburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sports Zone 10.00 James Walsh 1.00pm Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Magenta 8.15 Off the Shelf, Washington Square (3/10) 8.30 Pop Science 9.15 Concert Hall 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Andy Kershaw's World of Music 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf, Washington Square (3/10) 12.30pm Thirty-Minute Drama The End of Literature Bonuku 1.30 Composer of the Month 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Magenta 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 World Business Report 6.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Science View 6.30 News in German 7.30 Pop Science 9.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multiracial X Press 10.05 World Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Mandarin (On Screen) 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.10am Science View 12.15 Country Style 12.30 Multiracial X Press 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Mandarin 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Guthrie 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Nick Bailey 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto Beethoven (Triple Concerto in C major) 3.00 Jim Jones 4.00 Classical Newswatch 6.30 Sonata Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No 7 in B flat major) 7.00 Gardening Forum (1) 8.00 Evening Concert See Choice 10.00 Michael McPhail 10.30 Mel Coppe

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyte (Phil) / Robin Banks 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Rancid Lee Ross

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Presented by Penny Gore. Includes Dussak (Piano Concerto in G minor); Copland (Piano Journal, Music for Radio); Humperdinck (Romance, Blavatsky; Ennigang); Edgar (Incidental music: Grania and Diarmid); Bach (Concerto in F in the Italian Style); Faure (Ballade)

6.00 Edinburgh International Festival, Live from St. Andrew's Church. The Mosaics Quartet, introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville. Haydn (String Quartet, in E flat, Op 20 No 1; in B minor, Op 33 No 1; in A, Op 20 No 6) (2/3)

7.00 In Tune Part 2. Schoenberg (Song of the Wood Dove, Gundersen)

7.30 BBC Proms 1996. Live from the Albert Hall in London. Proms Artist of the Week: Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin, the New York Philharmonic, under Kurt Masur. Brahms (Violin Concerto in D) 8.10 Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin, the New York Philharmonic, under Kurt Masur. Brahms (Violin Concerto in D) 8.10

9.40 Reading Keats, Dannie Abse considers aesthetics and aesthetics in Keats's work (3/5) (1)

10.00 Voices. Thomas Hampson, baritone, Wolfram Rieger, piano, Mahler (Kindertotenlieder)

10.30 Manchester Summer Festival, Live from the Usher Hall. Introduced by Linda Orniston. Nuccia Focile, soprano, Katarina Kameus, mezzo, Toby Spence, tenor, Hanover Band, under Charles Mackerras. Haydn (Symphony No 85 in B flat, La rene; Pietà d. Me. H. 22b) 5: Symphony No 87 in A

11.30 Composer of the Week: Beethoven (1)

12.30 Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod Includes 2.15 Dvořák and Bruckner

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing incl weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 The Diary of a Nobody (3/5) (1) 8.55 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with Times columnist Libby Purves and guests

10.00 News: The Street: Mansfield Crescent, Amthorpe, South Yorkshire (1/5)

10.00 Daily Service (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, from County Down (1)

12.00 News: You and Yours, with Lesley Reddick

12.25pm No Commitments, by Simon Brett. A comedy drama series about the lives of three actors. With Rosemary Leach, Nicola Pagetti and Celia Imrie. (5/6) 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World At One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast (LW)

2.00 News: Forest Tales, by Colin Haydn Evans. A drama about two travellers, camping in mysterious woodland (3/5)

2.45 From Their Own Correspondent (1)

3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Gambaccini watches the Whitlock Dance project, featuring Mikhail Baryshnikov and reviews the week's new film releases

4.45 Short Story: A Dog for All Seasons, by Lily Horberg. The story of a lovable Alsatian who dominates the household. Read by Frana Ramsey

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 89.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 124.5-135.5am. CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053. 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dean, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

TONIGHT AT 8 - HOW REAL DO YOU WANT IT?

Handwritten signature or mark.

Caught out by the weather? Be prepared

The hot, sticky weather was due to break; those clever men and women who do the weather forecasts had been telling us so for days. But what they couldn't tell us was whether it would break soon enough and unseasonably enough for Ray Mears, self-styled "wilderness expert" for *Tracks* (BBC2) and a man never happier than when he has an orange plastic survival bag in one hand and a banana in the other.

"Something as simple as a banana," he pronounced solemnly last night. "To good food to have on the hill." To emphasise the point he waved an example at the camera. No doubt about it, it was definitely a banana.

By this time Mears had already given us a few helpful clues about what to look for if you suspected your hillside companion was in distress. Irritability, an inability to walk in straight lines and a tendency to fall headfirst into

muddy streams in front of television cameras were all giveaway signs, he warned. He might as well have added brandishing a banana, because it was quite clear by now that the only person in serious difficulty was himself.

As the rest of us glowed, perspired and — doggone it — sweated our way through the repeat of *Lonesome Dove*, Mears's chosen subject for the night was... hypothermia. "Even in summer, people die of hypothermia in Britain," he announced brightly. But even before I had concluded that it was too hot to argue (especially with a man wrapped in orange plastic and brandishing a banana) up popped Lindsay Cunniff from behind an apple tree. "Mistletoe," she began. "There's more to *Viscum album* than a quick kiss on the cheek."

Not really, it was not. By contrast, it was quite a night for Lorraine Charker, whose first

documentary for network television, *Picture This: Chiff-Chaff Chums* (BBC2), turned out to be something of a gem. What made the achievement all the more impressive was that her film — nominally about two guide leaders running a summer camp but actually about rather more — defied current documentary vogue. It did not mock, it did not present the odd as the ordinary and it did not give its subjects enough rope to tie themselves up in bowdices. As an exercise in restraint, it was exemplary.

However, the temptation to do otherwise must have been enormous. Both Marilyn and Jane, with their oversized caps and sensibly-thatched hair, could have spent their summer underdressing the Cranksies and nobody would have noticed. Instead, they spent a week taking 63 *Grimy* Guides to

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Chiff-Chaff camp in Sussex, where they distributed fried eggs and enthusiasm, tea and sympathy in impressively generous portions. Of course, they had never grown up. We knew that and they knew that. "We're big kids at heart, really," said Jane... or was it Marilyn? I never did quite work out which was which. But while other documentary-makers might have left us with the jerky, home-

video-style footage of two middle-aged women prancing absurdly around a flagpole, Charker made it clear that this transformation was for one week only. This was not the story of two lonely spinsters attempting to recapture their lost youth. Back home, there were husbands, children, lives.

The film was packed with memorable visual images, suggesting that Charker owed a considerable debt to her cameraman, Roger Chapman. The endless queue for the telephone, the food store that looked as if they could fuel several attempts on Everest, the small Guide taking the long, tearful route down the abscising tower... I could easily go on. It may have been filmed through a rose-tinted lens, but the delightful end result was definitely worth it. You have to put on a pair of seriously rose-tinted spectacles to be very optimistic about the future of *The 100ers* (ITV). Its run has

been disrupted by the summer of sport (or, to be more precise, by ITV's response to the BBC's summer of sport) and it has slipped from prime-time 8.30pm to not-so-prime post-News at Ten. That, however, may reflect its content as much as its ratings. It can be rather grown-up stuff.

But it can also be very funny stuff, which is why, if it is a genuinely tiring of the theatrical going-on at Eden Management, then another channel ought to be considering a rescue bid. It will never be another *Men Behaving Badly*, but it could flourish in a post-watershed spot on either BBC2 or Channel 4. The cast is superb, with Clive Francis as the urbane but vulnerable Dominic Eden and Elizabeth Bennett as the voracious and invulnerable Joan, turning in wonderful performances. The scripts, however, are just a little variable.

Last night's theme was aversion therapy, with Atn (Benedict Taylor) promising to confront his fear of public speaking. If Dominic tackled whatever his greatest fear was. The problem was identifying it. Confined spaces, open spaces, spiders, dentists. Atn tried them all, to gently amusing effect. But it took just a little too long to discover, and was just a little too tedious. While we wait, then, for the greatest fear of a gourd-moulding theatrical agent was junk food.

So, with Dominic agreeing to trial by doner kebab, it was up to Atn to make a royalty-enhancing eulogy to his recently deceased friend and rock star, Joey Cosmos. And after a few awkward moments and one grown-up expletive (actually rather an adolescent one), he had them rolling in the pews. Finally, a word or two about *Do You Want a Smack?* BBC's new morning guide to better parenting. The scariest thing on television.

CHOICE

Short Stories: Firing Line Channel 4, 8.30pm

In a high-profile week for women it's the turn of 150 volunteer soldiers, the average age 13 — seen being drilled on the "parade ground" of Alkynes public school in south London by a relentless 16-year-old corporal. They are the CCF (Combined Cadet Force) and if they give in so much as a bluish or a giggle they're out. Indeed, there is little favouritism shown by the real soldiers who help to train them: the girl singer over the same assault courses as the lads, wear the same combat gear, strip, load and fire (thank goodness with blanks) SAS army rifles. Interestingly, the MoD heavily subsidises these cadets and the best platoon is invited — no, ordered — to join the real Army and man overseas over Easter. "Get yourself sorted and get out and kill people," shouts an instructor. Worrying.

Lonesome Dove BBC2, 9.00pm
And so we say farewell — again — to this lovely, smoky, sentimental western. It's been one of the very few saddle sagas made for television which has managed at least an echo of the great John Ford. Tonight the Hat Creek outfit (led by the handsome, over-Easter, "Get yourself sorted and get out and kill people," shouts an instructor. Worrying.

Inside Story: Betrayal BBC1, 10.00pm

Nigel and Marie were videoed during their wedding and the video also showed Nigel sneaking off for a bit of the "other" Debbie, the wife of his best man. "I've always wanted Nigel," Debbie explains barefacedly to camera. Caroline's partner won £1.4 million on the lottery, bought a detached house and a BMW and promptly ditched Caroline and ran off with one Julie, a married woman. Says Julie of Caroline: "She's a bit rough, comes from a council estate, not like me." Carol's sister seduced her husband when they all lived under the same roof and under-age Steven had a secret affair with his mother's best friend. Unfortunately, all these victims and villains seem to be cut from the same cloth: they speak in a dreary monotone as if they were drugged. It's what they say, not how they say it, which fascinates.

Angelou on Burns BBC2, 11.15pm (not Scotland)

That's Robert Burns, and this unusual film brooks no criticism of him. Certainly there is none from his greatest American admirer, Angelou. She sees parallels between her own life and his — both born in poverty, each gradually becoming aware of man's inhumanity to man and trying to do something about it. There is much burning singing and Highland flinging in honour of the visiting American — she's in a candlelit castle to mark the bicentenary of her hero's death — and she herself waxes eloquent on how the Scot who never left Scotland could have so movingly understood the plight of her own people when he wrote *The Slave's Lament*. But *Tom O'Shanley* is, in my view, the best of the film and we are duly granted a rendition of it which seems to go on for ever.

6.00am GMTV (4845976)

9.25am Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (i) (Teletext) (s) (7369247)

9.50am Hope and Gloria (5795238) 10.20am News (Teletext) (s) (5011696)

10.25am Regional News

10.30am FILM: Dance 'Til Dawn (1989) A light-hearted comedy about the senior prom. Directed by Paul Schneider (40451228)

12.20am Regional News (1481860)

12.30am ITN News and weather (6496179) 12.55am Shortland Street (6464570) 1.25am Coronation Street (6221570) 2.00am Home and Away (5713234)

2.25am FILM: Trading Hearts (1988). Whimsical romantic tale about an over-the-hill baseball player and a single mother. Directed by Neil Letter (12) (7915042)

3.20am News (1588824) 3.25am Regional News

3.30am Alphabet Castle (i) (5918191) 3.40am Wizards (i) (s) (3794976) 3.50am Chatterbox Pines (3783860) 4.00am Bugs Bunny (i) (2824537) 4.20am Tooty Toons (2300677) 4.45am Are You Afraid of the Dark? (1028131)

5.10am Wheel of Fortune (i) (5432995)

5.40am ITN News and weather (625598)

6.00am Home and Away (i) (112)

6.30am Regional News (Teletext) (792)

7.00am Wheel of Fortune hosted by Nicky Campbell assisted by Jenny Powell (Teletext) (1082)

7.30am Coronation Street. Claire and Des have a heart-to-heart but there is a shock for Merlin and Gail (Teletext) (978)



Kevin Whately as Lewis (8.00pm)

8.00am Inspector Morse: The Wolvercote Tongue. Morse investigates the link between the death of an American tourist in an Oxford hotel and the disappearance of an Anglo-Saxon antiquary. Starring John Thew and Kevin Whately (i). (Teletext) (8599)

10.00am ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (47976)

10.30am Regional News (Teletext) (107773)

10.40am FILM: Wizards of the Lost Kingdom (1988). Starring Bob Swenson and Thom Christopher. A wizard's son learns up with a magic wand to find a magic ring that would give an evil warlock absolute power. Directed by Hector Olivera (200889)

12.35am God's Gift with Davina McCall (4163446)

1.35am Cyber-Cafe (3836213)

2.00am Dear Nick (9624718)

3.00am Bushell on the Box (i) (84845377)

3.35am Nationwide Goals Extra (i) (8974464)

4.20am Phenomena (42133919)

4.30am The Time... The Place (i) (89445)

5.00am Hot Gossip (i) (44648)

5.30am ITN Morning News (39629)

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm Wales Tonight (796060)

7.00-7.30am Cafe Blagi (1082)

10.40am FILM: Loversley (33066247)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

10.30am FILM: The Good Family (41985773)

12.55am Coronation Street (6464570)

1.25-1.55am Good Advice (83082688)

1.55am Home and Away (5713234)

2.25am Healthy by Nature (87135421)

2.55-3.20am A Country Practice (1541711)

5.10-5.40am Home and Away (5432995)

6.00am Westcountry Live (81808)

7.00-7.30am Wheel of Fortune (1082)

10.40am Wild Dogs and Englishmen. The story of a Cornishman's fight to save the wild dogs of Zimbabwe (199044)

11.40am Street Legal (222131)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

10.30am FILM: The Good Family (83072044)

12.55am Home and Away (6464570)

1.25am Just a Minute (83082688)

1.55am A Country Practice (89712228)

2.20am People's Verdict (87136150)

2.50-3.20am Our House (5024150)

5.10-5.40am Shortland Street (5432995)

6.25am Central News and Weather (799080)

7.00-7.30am Wheel of Fortune (1082)

10.40am Unconventionally Fairport (199044)

11.40am Phoenix (855547)

12.45am Bushell on the Box (3164803)

1.20am God's Gift (3174280)

2.20am Dear Nick (9640700)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 9.50-10.20am Sandokan (595228) 10.30am Bestman's World (55995)

11.00am Dogland and the Three Musketeers (5033150) 11.25am Combat (5045337) 11.55am Dungeons and Dragons (6942614) 12.55pm Coronation Street (6464570) 1.25am Home and Away (5713234) 2.20am Murder, She Wrote (5655501) 5.10am Home and Away (5432995) 6.00am Meridian Tonight (112) 6.30am Antiques Trail (702) 7.00am Wheel of Fortune (1082) 10.40am Meridian Arts Debate (199044) 11.40am The Making of Twister: Raising a Storm (450537) 12.05am Short Story Cinema (5847454)

SAC

Starts: 6.35am Sharky and George (2472686) 7.00am The Big Breakfast (75957) 9.00am California Dreams (7371082) 9.25am The Secret World of Alex Mack (i) (731841) 9.55am Hangin' with Mr Cooper (i) (Teletext) (5680344)

10.20am Earthworm Jim (i) (5231599) 10.45am Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure (i) (5232421) 11.10am Biker Mice from Mars (8306599) 11.35am Insektors (i) (3525268) 11.50am Dennis (i) (8537131)

12.05pm Mark and Mandy (i) (8615044)

12.30am Travels à la Carte (i) (Teletext) (64131)

1.00am Sesame Street. The guests are the Tokyo String Quartet (i) (86686)

2.00am Channel 4 Racing from York. Live coverage of the 2.05, 2.35 (Aston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks), 3.10 (Totterboro), 3.45 and 4.15 races (i) (852150)

4.30am Countdown (i) (889) 5.00am The Ricki Lake Show (Teletext) (i) (508995) 5.45am Toys for the Boys (i) (615112)

6.00am Party of Five (Teletext) (i) (276599)

6.50am Terrytoons (326537)

7.00am Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (107315)

7.55am The Slot (457266)

8.00am Brookside. Katie receives some disturbing news from Bel and Olive. (Teletext) (i) (5044)

8.30am Short Stories: Firing Line. With the 150 cadets of Alkynes School Combined Cadet Force on a week's intensive training on an army camp over Easter (Teletext) (i) (4178)

9.00am Ellen. Audrey applies for a job at the bookshop (7518)

9.30am Dressing for Breakfast. Louise's 29th birthday makes her feel depressed (i). (Teletext) (i) (84985)

10.00am American Gothic. Lucas tries to send Dr Matt over the edge (Teletext) (i) (908041)

10.55am The Naked Truth. Nora leaps when her parents announce that they are coming to stay. (Teletext) (i) (783044)

11.30am Cheers (i). (Teletext) (50150)

12.00am Strippers. A documentary profile of three Italian strippers (i) (760446)

12.35am-3.25am Midnight Underground: Tom's Flash (1/5) A showcase for experimental film (3362342)

12.45am Frank Basiles. A journey into the creativity of "disabled sex" (2919822)

1.00am Protect Me. A film about an Italian-born performer after (Teletext) (i) (75919)

1.15am FILM: Rhythm Thief (1994, b/w) Urban drama directed by Matthew Harrison (228008)

2.55am Island Race. A documentary filmed in London's East End at the time the BNP was gathering political momentum in Tower Hamlets (1816687). Ends at 3.25am

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